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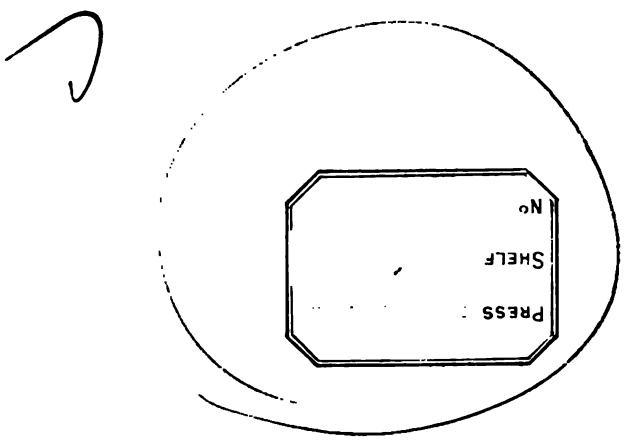

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

CONDUCT

OF

DR JAMES GREGORY,

TOWARDS

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH,

DRAWN UP AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COLLEGE, IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE VARIOUS PRINTED PAPERS CIRCULATED BY HIM RELATIVE TO THEIR AFFAIRS.

[illegible]

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR PETER HILL, MANNERS & MILLER, AND A. CONSTABLE & CO.

1809.

H 282

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Craig's Close.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Narrative was drawn up in consequence of the Royal College of Physicians having reason to expect, from repeated assurances on the part of Dr Gregory, that the voluminous printed papers which he presented to them in autumn 1808, under the titles of Defence and Relative Documents, would be circulated as extensively as his Review and Censorian Letter. But as the "war" which he began, and has waged for some years, against them and among them, so far from being, as he in express terms threatened it should be, "not secret, but open," has been hitherto carried on by him in a great measure in the dark,—as his calumnies have been dispersed chiefly among his patients, his dependents, and friends, and circulated where the College cannot trace or follow them, though he has hitherto abstained, and seems now to shrink from any open act of publication, imperious necessity at length compels the College to place this Narrative in the

Booksellers shops, where every person who feels an interest in these affairs may obtain it. Those who have listened to Dr Gregory's misrepresentations, and who are impressed with a sense of the sacred obligation of justice, will doubtless read this Narrative with the same attention which they have bestowed on his papers. Others who have not met with these, who have no concern with the subject, or who have disregarded his slanders, which amuse the idle and gratify the malicious alone, have no occasion to trouble themselves with perusing these pages. They are addressed to those only who have listened to partial and false representations of their affairs.

The College wish it to be clearly understood, that this Narrative was not intended to precede the general distribution of Dr Gregory's Defence and Relative Documents; and when it is remembered that these were printed, and partially circulated, above a year ago, the College will not be accused of having acted precipitately. From what motives Dr Gregory has so long abstained from giving the most open currency to these performances, the College will not pretend to say. They are certain it is not from delicacy and justice towards the College.

In finally resolving on this publication, the College acted with the greatest deliberation. By the standing Regulations of the College, no publication, excepting the Pharmacopœia, can appear in name of the College, but on the following conditions.

" 1. It

" 1. It must be voted in three several meetings of the College, and approved.

2. Eight days shall intervene between each meeting.

3. If a third part of those present shall dissent, the publica-

1518 d.19
RSL Stack
Wednesday, 17 May 2006

CONTENTS.

SECT. I.

Pag.

THIS NARRATIVE necessary to counteract the injurious tendency of Dr Gregory's publications, - - - - - - - - 1.

Sketch of the transactions of the College respecting its restrictive Regulations on the mode of practising Physic in Edinburgh, - - - - - 2.

Dr Gregory's Review and Censorian Letter first circulated in January 1805 — Nature of these—Accuses the President and Committee for revising the Laws of fraud, chicane, deceit, breach of faith, notorious falsehood, and of acting from the most selfish, sordid, and unworthy motives, - - - 5.

Examination of Dr Gregory's conduct in appealing to the Public, - 6.

Violation of a solemn obligation, - - - - - - 7.

False pretext of duty as Censor of the Royal College alleged by Dr Gregory, 8.

Dr Gregory's charges, with regard to the measure proposed by the Committee and their motives and conduct, shewn to be groundless and malicious, - 8.

Dr Gregory's account of his private and confidential interviews with the Members of the Committee full of misrepresentation and fabrication, - - 24.

His professed motives questionable, and more probable motives assigned, - 31.

Proofs of his *animus injuriandi*, - - - - - - 32.

His pledge of fame and fortune on the truth of his assertions, the validity of his reasonings, and justness of his conclusions, intended to impose on the Public, 32.

Proceedings of the College in vindication of the motives and conduct of the President and Committee—Unanimous resolution to that effect, Feb. 5. 1805—Election of Dr Spens as President for the third time, - - - 35.

SECT.

SECT. II.

Pag.

Insulting Queries proposed to the College by Dr Gregory—Vote of censure on Dr Gregory on that account, - - - - - 38.

SECT. III.

Dr Gregory, in an official letter, Nov. 2, 1807, guilty of a deliberate violation of truth in a solemn declaration and oath before God—Detection of this falsehood—Subterfuges employed by Dr Gregory in his vindication—Reasons for bringing the subject before the College—Motion for censure and reprimand in December 1807—Defence by Dr Gregory presented in print and by portions, forming a large quarto volume, - - - - - - 41.

Solemn decision of the College, finding Dr Gregory guilty of deliberate falsehood, - - - - - - - - 51.

SECT. IV.

Observations on Dr Gregory's *Defence*—Argument, that the falsehood imputed to him was so open to detection that he could not have been guilty of it, discussed—His assertion, that he had never blamed the motives of the Committee, and other examples of gross violation of truth on the part of Dr Gregory, as open to detection as that submitted to the College, quoted from the Defence, 63.

Dr Gregory's misrepresentations respecting the falsehood laid to his charge—Verdict of the Commissary Court against Dr Gregory for defamation—Extravagant metaphysical doctrine on the subject of motives maintained by Dr Gregory, - 73.

Dr Gregory's singular interpretation of the resolution of the College in favour of the Committee for revising the Laws, - - - - 81.

His intemperate abuse of the College on account of that resolution, - 87.

His offers of reparation considered, - - - - - 89.

Misrepresentations of Dr Gregory respecting the sentiments of other Members of the College, - - - - - - - - 90.

General remarks on Dr Gregory's attempt to exhibit himself as the aggrieved person—On party-spirit and *odium medicum*—Dr Gregory engaged for many years in polemical discussions—Influence of his example—Conclusion, - - 91.

POST

POSTSCRIPT.

Pag.

Protest by Dr Gregory against the decision of the College on the 13th September 1808—Fresh instance of falsehood and abuse of the College in this Protest—Suspension of Dr Gregory from his functions as a Fellow, until he make satisfactory acknowledgments, - - - - - - - 95.

APPENDIX.

No. I. Statement to shew the inconsistencies of Dr Wright, - - 1.
II. Grounds of doubt entertained by the Committee for revising the Laws, respecting the purport and extent of the By-law of 1754, 23.
III. Dr Duncan junior's Protest, November 1805, - - - - - 34.
IV. Dr Gregory's Queries, - - - - - - - 36.
V. Letter from Dr Spens to Dr Buchan, and Dr Buchan's Answer, - 38.
VI. Letter from Dr Stuart to Mr Hope, and Mr Hope's Answer, - 41.

NAR-

NARRATIVE.

SECT. I.

IT is with great pain, that the Royal College of Physicians—not a numerous, but hitherto, they trust, a very respectable Society, find themselves compelled to come before the Public with the narrative of their internal dissensions. The intemperate and injurious conduct of one of their Members, however, has now made this a matter of necessity. Like other collections of individuals, they have had their discussions and disagreements; but till very lately these were always conducted with the temper, and in the language of gentlemen; and were begun and ended within the walls of the College. Dr James Gregory has introduced a new style and a new jurisdiction. He has resorted to the unprecedented measure of addressing the Public respecting the private affairs of the College. Nearly five years ago he printed and distributed two pamphlets, in which he unjustly arraigned, in the harshest terms, the conduct of the President and a Committee of the College; and he has lately distributed a huge quarto volume, in which he repeats his calumnies, and extends his abuse to the whole College.

In these volumes he has given so incorrect and so distorted an account of the proceedings of the College, and of the conduct of individual Members, that it has become absolutely necessary to publish a true and correct narrative of all those proceedings, and an exposition of the improper and injurious conduct of Dr Gregory towards his brethren. From this narrative itself, the reader will be best able to judge, both of the forbearance of the College in having so long abstained from such a measure, and of the necessity which has now led them to have recourse to it.

The College consists of two descriptions of Members, Fellows and Licentiates. By its charter of foundation in 1681, it is enjoined to admit as Licentiate every person who may present a diploma of M. D. from any University in Scotland, and that without any examination, or other condition than payment of the fees. From the Licentiates, the Fellows are chosen by ballot.

In 1750, a By-law was made, prohibiting any of the *Fellows* from practising either Surgery or Pharmacy in general. In 1754, another By-law was passed, prohibiting Members who reside in Edinburgh, *Licentiates* as well as *Fellows*, from keeping Apothecaries Shops or practising Pharmacy, and enacting, that every person shall accede to this restriction as a condition of his being admitted. As this Law had not yet been rendered effectual, the College, in 1761, had recourse to a public advertisement for that purpose. In 1765, a third By-law was made, specially prohibiting any of the *Fellows* from practising Surgery in general, or Midwifery, Lithotomy, Inoculation, or any other branch thereof. In 1769, the same prohibition was extended to the *Licentiates* of the College.

Some of these regulations were the subject of much discussion, and were disapproved of by many of the Members. The last had been carried by the casting vote of the President, and was rescinded, in the close of the same year, on the motion of Dr William Cullen, when *Licentiates* were permitted to practise Surgery as formerly. In 1770, an attempt was made by the same distinguished Physician to repeal the prohibition imposed on the *Fellows* by the act 1765; but this was not successful. In 1772, a second attempt was made to repeal the same act, in consequence of which it was amended; but the prohibition against the practice of Surgery, Midwifery, or any other branch of Surgery, by the Fellows, was continued. In 1787, a motion was brought forward for the repeal of the act of 1772, so far as related to the practice of Midwifery, and, after much debate, was adopted; in consequence of which, the Fellows of this College may now practise Midwifery. It deserves to be remarked, that Dr James Gregory was one of the most strenuous advocates for this relaxation of the acts 1750, 1765, and 1772.

These facts are thus generally stated, merely to shew that the regulations of the College relative to the participation of its Members in the other branches of the medical profession, are comparatively of recent date;—that the College has all along been divided

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in opinion with regard to the expediency of them;—and that many of the most distinguished Members have thought, that the prohibitions which had been enacted were too rigorous and extensive.

The act 1754, prohibiting the Members *resident in Edinburgh* from keeping Apothecaries Shops or practising Pharmacy, was generally understood to be so comprehensive, as to prevent them even from preparing and dispensing medicines in any case to their own patients. About the year 1796, it occurred to several of the Fellows, that it might be of advantage both to the College and to the Public, if this prohibition were so far repealed, as to authorise the Members, when they saw cause, to furnish the medicines which they judged proper for their own patients; and in February 1796, Dr Thomas Spens did accordingly move for a repeal of the act 1754 to that limited extent.

The College was very much divided as to the expediency and propriety of this motion; and it was debated with considerable keenness, though without any personality or breach of decorum. At last Dr Spens, finding that the proposal, though supported by a majority of his Brethren, was disapproved of by some individuals for whom he had great respect, allowed the consideration of it to be adjourned *sine die*; and the matter was dropt for the time.

In the beginning of 1804, a discussion accidentally arose, respecting the power which the College possessed by the laws to alienate its property, in the course of which, several of the said laws were found to be very obscure and defective. A Committee was in consequence appointed, with general instructions, to revise and consider them, and to report to the College what additions and alterations should appear to them to be advisable. This Committee was named, according to the invariable custom of the College, by the President, who happened at that time to be Dr Thomas Spens, and who nominated Dr Duncan senior, Dr Buchan, Dr Hope, and Dr Duncan junior, to co-operate with himself in this Committee.

Those Gentlemen accordingly considered the laws with much attention, and found it necessary to propose various additions and alterations. When, in the course of this review, the act 1754 came under their notice, to some of the Committee, the restrictions imposed by that act, appeared too extensive, and even contrary to the spirit of the Charter, while others approved of them, and were at first adverse to any alteration or modification.

But they came at length to concur in thinking, that it might be expedient to permit the members, when they thought fit, to prepare and dispense medicines to their own patients, and also in doubting, whether the terms of this By-law, did actually debar them from so doing. Instead of altering and repealing the whole law therefore, they thought it more correct and expedient, to engross it in their report, with the following proposed addition or explanation, viz. "As doubts have been entertained respecting the purport and extent of the act of the College, of date 11th April 1754, it is hereby declared, that the restrictions therein mentioned apply solely to such persons as keep or may set up public apothecaries or druggists shops, for the purpose of selling medicines by retail."

The Report, containing this, and various other additions and alterations of the laws, was brought up and laid on the table in August 1804. At the next quarterly meeting in November, Dr Spens, the President, read all the parts of it which contained any novelty, and among others, the preceding explanation of the act 1754. As this was evidently the same in substance and effect with the proposal of Dr Spens in 1796, it encountered a pretty warm opposition, and the consideration of it was postponed till the ensuing quarterly meeting, in February 1805. In point of fact, however, it was never afterwards submitted to the College.

The Committee having learnt, that the proposed measure of permitting the resident Members to furnish medicines to their own patients, was much disapproved of by several of their brethren, did finally resolve, about the middle of December 1804, or rather earlier, to ask leave to reconsider their report, for the purpose of *withdrawing* both that part which related to the act 1754, and any other part of it, which they had reason to think might divide the College. This resolution they immediately communicated to some of those Fellows who had opposed the measure; and as Dr Gregory had expressed his disapprobation of it in very decided terms, they took particular care to notify *to him*, that that part of the report was to be withdrawn. For this purpose, although they knew that Dr James Home, who attended the Committee when the resolution was formed, had communicated it to Dr Gregory in general terms, Dr Spens, the President, in order that there might be no possibility of mistake, afterwards requested Dr J. Hamilton senior to make the same communication to him, which he accordingly did. Notwithstanding this intimation, at the distance of

of six weeks after this period, viz. about the 27th or 28th of January 1805, Dr Gregory distributed two printed quarto pamphlets, entitled, the one, "Review of the Proceedings of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, from 1753 to 1804," &c. the other, "Censorian Letter," &c. The professed object of these publications was, to prove the inexpediency and impropriety of allowing Physicians to prepare and dispense medicines to their own patients; but their real purpose was, if we may judge from their tendency and effect, to traduce and calumniate Dr Spens and the other Gentlemen of the Committee, by holding them up to "the contempt and ridicule, the indignation and the reproaches of their fellow-citizens," (Cens. Lett. p. 69.) *as men who were actuated by the most sordid and the basest motives, and who were endeavouring to accomplish a most dishonourable and illegal object, by fraud, falsehood, and other disgraceful and unhallowed means.*

These papers were not sent officially to the College, nor individually to every one of the Members, but they were distributed by Dr Gregory, very profusely among his friends, pupils, and acquaintances, not only in this city, but over the whole of Great Britain and her remotest colonies. Never was defamation, it is believed, more unprovoked or malignant; and rarely has it been disseminated with greater zeal and activity.

The College felt itself insulted by this unprecedented publication, and the feelings of many of its individual Members were extremely hurt by it. As it had not however been officially presented to them, the former was not directly called upon to take notice of it; and the latter felt too secure of the estimation of their friends and fellow citizens, to think it necessary to seek protection from this outrageous attack, in a disagreeable lawsuit, or an irritating controversy. To neither of them was it desirable to enter the lists of disputation with an antagonist of Dr Gregory's temper and dispositions. They felt, and they still feel, that there is something degrading even in answering such base and disgraceful imputations; and they chose rather to despise the calumny, than, by a formal confutation, to give it a degree of importance to which it was not entitled. The accumulated and repeated injuries of the same turbulent individual (to be afterwards more fully narrated) having at last compelled the College to depart from this resolution of silence, it has now become necessary, however painful and irksome the task may be, to expose the leading falsehoods, misrepresentations, and slanders which fill the pages of Dr Gregory's Review and Censorian

Letter, and by which he has endeavoured to ruin the reputation of so many of his Brethren.

They must preface these remarks, however, by observing, that Dr Gregory has subjected himself to the severest censure for *the manner* in which his sentiments, whatever these had been, were communicated.

The subject of the partial repeal or explanation of the act 1754, was at that very period under the consideration of the College. If Dr Gregory chose to disbelieve or to forget the intimation which he had received in the middle of December, of the measure having been abandoned by its movers, it was his duty to have come forward at the quarterly meeting in February, and to have urged every thing he had to say against it. If his zeal was too impatient to brook that delay, he might have put his arguments in writing, and sent them to the President and the Members. But, without any such preparation,—without waiting to hear the arguments with which the Committee might support their proposal,—without asking any explanation of what might seem to him unaccountable,—without even waiting to see whether the Committee persisted in their proposal, or whether the College was disposed to sanction it,—to rush into the presence of the public, with two Quarto Pamphlets, of nearly 200 pages, full of the most gross and unmerited abuse of his brethren, and in which he pronounced them guilty of the most infamous conduct, was a proceeding that can admit of no defence or palliation, even if the *bona fides* and good intentions of the author were liable to no suspicion.

" The quarrels of Physicians," says the late Dr Gregory, " when they end in appeals to the public, generally hurt the contending parties; but, what is of more consequence, they discredit the profession, and expose the Faculty itself to ridicule and contempt."

And Dr James Gregory himself has, in the strongest terms, and in several of his publications, expressed his reprobation of such conduct in others, even in the case of injury, or where the proofs against the accused or condemned person were clear and incontrovertible.

" When a man, who (says he) is injured, instead of seeking that effectual redress which the impartial laws of his country would certainly afford him, tries the inadequate, precarious, *disgraceful expedient* of an appeal to the public, he must no doubt have some very particular reasons for acting in a manner apparently so preposterous. It must certainly be thought, either that he is not

so much injured as he would have the public believe, or at least, that there are circumstances of his story not quite fit for strict judicial enquiry. When a man, who makes such an appeal, and wishes the public to decide in his cause, instead of telling the whole tale, tells but a very little of it, and that little very erroneously, stating only what is in his own favour, suppressing whatever can make against him, and misrepresenting the words, the meaning, and the conduct of his adversary, it must be supposed, that he has the most substantial reasons for acting in a manner so evidently disingenuous."

In his Defence, p. 57. he says, " In the mean time, it is sufficient to point out, that such *condemning* of a person untried, unheard, uncited, is an act of the most *flagrant injustice*: such an act of injustice as could not be vindicated, even though the evidence against the person so condemned were complete and irrefragable.

Qui statuit aliquid parte inauditâ alterâ,
Æquum licet statuerit, haud æquus fuit."

But independent of the indelicacy, illiberality, and injustice of bringing the Gentlemen of the Committee to the " bar of the public, that dread tribunal, from which there is no appeal," (Rel. Doc. p. 50.) and the general demerit of such a proceeding, it directly violated the following article of that solemn obligation, which Dr Gregory, as well as every other Fellow of the College, subscribed on taking his seat, under the penalty of forfeiting the character of an honest man, and a good Christian.

" I, A. B. one of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, do, by subscribing these presents, solemnly declare, and surely promise, That I shall never divulge any thing that is acted or spoken in any meeting of the said College, or Council or Court thereof, which I think may tend to the prejudice or defamation of the same, or any Member thereof."

Now, although a fair and honest history of its proceedings would be far from tending to the prejudice or defamation of the College, or of its individual Members, yet the distorted and unfair account of them given in Dr Gregory's publications, is calculated, and was intended, both to injure and to defame; and by the strenuous, though fruitless attempts he has repeatedly made to exculpate

exculpate himself, Dr Gregory evidently betrays his consciousness, that he has wantonly incurred the severe penalty annexed to the forfeiture of the obligation.

The Censorian Letter opens, in the very first sentence, with a wilful misrepresentation. It begins with saying, That "he loses no time in beginning to discharge some part of that painful and laborious duty, which the Royal College of Physicians had done him the honour of imposing on him, by appointing him one *of their Censors.*". From this it might be supposed, that the Royal College of Physicians had actually among them an office corresponding, in substance as well as in name, with that of the Censors in the Roman Republic. The truth is, however, *and Dr Gregory knew it to be so*, that the office of Censor in the Royal College imports no sort of inspection or controul over the moral conduct either of the Society, or its Members. The limited business of this Officer, as described in the Charter, is to take care that no person practise Medicine in Edinburgh, without a licence from the College, and, along with the President, to constitute a Court for the trial of such offenders. It is as absurd in Dr Gregory to pretend, that it gave him any right to rebuke or arraign the College itself, or the Members, as it would be for the commercial Consuls of modern times to think of commanding armies, or of parading with lictors and fasces, because these were the privileges of their namesakes in ancient Rome. The College saw clearly, that Dr Gregory, in thus assuming to himself a false character, wished to palliate to the world the publication of his calumnies, and at the same time to add weight to them. But they equally condemn the imposition and the motive which prompted it.

Having urged this false pretext as one of his reasons for publishing his Review and Censorian Letter, Dr Gregory proceeds to animadvert upon the nature and merits of the measure proposed by the Committee,—the motives and considerations which led to the proposal,—and the general conduct of the Committee in bringing forward their proposed alteration of the By-law.

As to the first of those points, he is pleased to maintain, 1*mo*, That the removal of the restriction, which prevents the resident Fellows and Licentiates from furnishing medicines to their own patients, is inexpedient, both in regard to the Royal College and to the Members individually; 2*do*, That the measure itself was "immoral and base,—disgraceful to our College and to

our

our Profession;" *3tio*, That the Act, or By-law, of 1754 "is a fundamental and indefeasible part of the Constitution of our College,"—that any encroachment upon it is a flagrant breach of faith,—and that the proposal of the Committee fell under that denomination; and *4to*, That to repeal the Act 1754, or any part of it, was a proceeding "contrary to the law of the country."

Upon the general point of Expediency, the first of those topics, the College, as they have been for a long time divided with regard to it, will refrain from expressing any opinion.

Upon the second position, that the proposal to remove the restriction is disgraceful, base, and immoral, meriting the strong reprobation of the College, and entailing dishonour on those who brought it forward, the College are so far from agreeing with Dr Gregory, that they are filled with astonishment at the terms in which he presumes to speak of it. They considered the question from the beginning merely as a question of expediency. They knew that medical men of the first eminence have differed in opinion upon the propriety of allowing Physicians to furnish medicines to their own patients; and they remembered, in particular, that this plan had been recommended by Dr John Gregory, the father of THEIR CENSOR, in his Lectures on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician, as one of the modes by which the practice of Physic might be improved and purified *. They had seen, in 1768, some of the most celebrated men of whom their profession could ever boast, Drs William Cullen, John Gregory, Alexander Monro, Thomas Young, Joseph Black, &c. strenuously and successfully contending for permission to the Licentiates of this College resident in Edinburgh to practise Surgery in general, or any of its branches. They had seen, that some of the most eminent men had also attempted, in 1769, and 1770, and 1772, though not with equal success, to extend that permission to the *resident*

* "In regard to Pharmacy, it were much to be wished, that those who make it their business should have no connection with the practice of Physic, or that *Physicians should dispense their own medicines*, and either not charge the expence of them to their patients at all, or charge it at the prime cost. It is only in *one* or *other* of these ways that we can ever hope to see that simplicity of prescription take place in the practice of Medicine; and it is only from such an arrangement that we can expect to see Physicians placed in that honourable independence which subjects them to no attentions but such as tend to the advancement of their art," p. 48. Edit. 1772.

dent Fellows. Yet they never heard these Members accused of being advocates for measures degrading to the College, or dishonourable to those who moved them, though all the arguments urged by Dr James Gregory against the proposal of the Committee of 1804, would apply with equal or greater force against those supported by his own father and the other eminent men above mentioned. What Dr Cullen and others could not effect in 1769, &c. they saw in part accomplished in 1788, in a great measure by the exertions of Dr James Gregory himself. In that year a proposal was made to repeal the acts 1750, 1765, and 1772, (which entirely prohibited the resident Fellows from practising any branch of Surgery), so far as they regarded the particular branch of Midwifery. Dr James Gregory espoused the cause of Midwifery with ardour and keenness, and succeeded, in spite of a strong opposition, in carrying the repeal in favour of this branch of Surgery. Though, from the year 1750, the date of the original statute, the sentiments of the majority of the College had been constant and uniform, with respect to the propriety of the separation of the profession of the Physician from that of every branch of Surgery; and though the acts of 1765 and 1772 had *specially* interdicted the practice of Midwifery; yet the College never heard that Dr James Gregory, or those who, along with him, carried the above proposal, were accused of having disgraced themselves, or the College, by that measure, or of having employed the force of numbers to accomplish an unworthy or unlawful object. On the contrary, at least one publication of Dr Gregory's might be referred to, in which he makes a boast of the liberality of sentiment and aversion to corporation spirit which induced him to become the champion of Midwifery, though he, in the same publication, expresses the greatest contempt for that art, and avows his utter ignorance of it.

If Dr Gregory, therefore, in 1788, thought it liberal, proper, and honourable for the Royal College to permit the resident Fellows to practise Midwifery, which had always been held as a branch of Surgery, and which, as he chooses to allege, "many wise and good men, and women too, of all ages, and many Physicians, consider an abomination, which degrades the character of the one sex, and sullies the purity of the other;" if, notwithstanding this, he thought it praise-worthy in himself to promote the measure with all his might; it was scarcely to have been expected that the same

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Dr Gregory should, in 1804, have reprobated the measure of permitting the resident Members to practise so much Pharmacy, as might be requisite for furnishing medicines to their own patients, and should have represented it as degrading to the College, or disgraceful to the Committee, the Members of which he knew had no more intention of following that mode of practice, than he had of engaging in the practice of Midwifery.

It is only necessary to add, that the proposal of the Committee, to permit Members residing in Edinburgh to supply their patients with medicines, appeared to be one about which the most candid and honourable men might differ in opinion, and might maintain either side of the question, without incurring the smallest reproach; and this indeed is the more evident, when it is considered, that this permission is, in fact, possessed by all Fellows and Licentiates who do not practise *in this city*, some of whom actually are, and always have been, in the habit of furnishing medicines in the way proposed.

The third position of Dr Gregory is a very remarkable one. He maintains, that the act 1754 is "a fundamental and indefeasible part of the constitution of the College;" and because every Member residing in Edinburgh, before admission, must have subscribed it, that any attempt to repeal or alter this By-law is *ipso facto* a flagrant breach of faith! Upon these extraordinary grounds, he brings against the President and Committee the harsh charge of deliberate and determined breach of faith; he repeats it numberless times in his printed papers, and urges it with great warmth and earnestness. This position, and the accusation founded on it, are too preposterous and absurd for any man of sound understanding seriously to support them. To the College it certainly appears to be the height of folly, to call the By-law, or enactment, of 1754, "a *fundamental* and *indefeasible* part of its constitution," seeing that this By-law was not passed till the College had already existed for more than half a century; and it seems consummate absurdity to maintain, that the same power which framed and enacted that By-law, can neither alter nor repeal it, when it shall be found expedient so to do.

The circumstance of every person being required to subscribe this By-law before he be admitted a Licentiate, no doubt was to make it more obligatory, and to secure more effectually the observance of its injunctions. But that obligation does and can only

bind subscribers, so long as it remains a By-law of the College. Repeal the law, and the obligation to obey it is annulled in the same moment.

The College thus hold it perfectly absurd to denominate the repeal of this By-law, whether partial or total, a breach of faith; and consequently the charge of deliberate and determined breach of faith, is as groundless as it is injurious and malignant.

The last of these general positions, viz. " That it is an unlawful deed, an act contrary to the law of the country," to repeal or alter the said By-law of 1754, even surpasses in absurdity that respecting the breach of faith. For though it is easy to conceive, that there may be many By-laws which it would be illegal to *frame*, and still more improper to enforce, it probably would be found a little difficult to devise one, which it would be contrary to law to *repeal*. Certain it is, at least, that the law in question is not of this description, and that it is competent for the College to repeal it, in the same way as, with Dr Gregory's concurrence, they repealed in 1788 that part of their By-laws of 1750, 1765, and 1772, which interdicted their Fellows from the practice of Midwifery.

This analysis of Dr Gregory's reasoning on the nature and merits of the proposal for altering the By-law of 1754, affords at least unequivocal evidence of the most perverted judgment; but if his Review and Censorian Letter had erred only in that respect, the College could not have deemed them fit objects of censure and reprobation. His account of the motives and conduct of the Committee, evinces the most deliberate determination to ruin, *per fas aut nefas*, the character of several of his Brethren, of Gentlemen with whom he had lived in terms, not merely of friendly, but of the most familiar intercourse.

The first object of his abuse is Dr Spens, of whom the College may at least say, that his manners and dispositions are little calculated to provoke so gross an outrage. Of his conduct, in 1796, Dr Gregory has given (Review, p. 14, &c.) a most unfair and incorrect account. He represents him as having " persisted in his motion with unexampled perseverance and obstinacy for nine months," though, by the laws of the College, this motion could not have been finally discussed before the close of six months; and the debate was adjourned to the Meeting completing the nine months, *solely at the request of those who opposed the motion*. He further represents, what

what is absolutely contrary to truth, that the Members who opposed the motion constituted a majority of two to one, and out of tenderness to Dr Spens, permitted the motion to be dropped without a vote.

The motion of Dr Spens was altogether in the spirit of many of those which had been brought forward and supported in the College by the most distinguished of its Fellows; and the whole of his conduct in 1796, so far from meriting the obloquy and reproach cast upon it by Dr Gregory, was blameless in every respect; and in relinquishing the measure, with a majority in favour of it, he acted in the most liberal manner, and shewed, indisputably, his ardent desire to preserve union and harmony in the College.

Dr Gregory is then pleased to state, that Dr Spens, eager to carry through his favourite measure upon any terms, and disregarding the humiliating repulse which he had experienced in 1796, no sooner arrived at the President's Chair, than he resolved to avail himself of his situation, to renew his efforts for its accomplishment; and therefore, at the very first meeting after his election, proposed the appointment of a Committee to revise the laws, that under this cloak he might accomplish his sinister purposes: and that with this intention he packed a Committee, naming those members only whose sentiments he knew to accord with his own.

It is necessary here to quote Dr Gregory's own account of the appointment of the Committee in 1804 for the revisal of the laws. His words are: "1*st December* 1803, Dr Spens was elected President of our College. At that our Anniversary Meeting, no business is allowed to be done, except the election of our office-bearers, and the customary vote of thanks to the former President when a new one is elected; which vote of thanks is always moved by the new President as a matter of course, and was that day, in the usual form, moved by Dr Spens to Dr Wright, and unanimously agreed to. This being a matter of common form and course, can scarce be regarded as any peculiar act of his; but at the first ordinary Quarterly Meeting, (7th February 1804), being the first opportunity he had to make such an attempt after he came into office, *the very first act of his administration*, was to suggest to the College the propriety of having their laws reprinted with alterations." *Vide* Review, pages 23 & 24.

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This statement, short as it is, contains no less than three wilful and deliberate falsehoods; for, 1*mo*, The suggestion of the propriety of revising the laws did not originate with Dr Spens; 2*do*, The appointment of a Committee for that purpose was not the first act of his administration; 3*tio*, That appointment was not made at the first meeting for transacting business after his election.

Dr Gregory, who seems to consider his memory as infallible, and who here pretends to so much accuracy, as to except specially the election meeting, as not inconsistent with his assertions, cannot have forgotten, that two meetings of the College were held in January 1804, both of them of course previous to the appointment of that Committee. He himself was present at both of those meetings, and took an active share in the business of them; and, what merits particular notice, it was at those very meetings that the propriety and necessity of revising the laws was publicly suggested by different Members, though not by Dr Spens, in consequence of considerable perplexity arising from the ambiguous import of that one respecting alienation of property, a point then under discussion.

The insinuation, that the President packed the Committee, is totally destitute of foundation; the College have reason to know, that no Committee was ever named by a chairman in a more fair and impartial manner. Dr Spens, it is true, must have foreseen, that among the other laws, the act 1754 necessarily would come under review. But how did he arrange the Committee with a view to that object? In the selection of the *four* gentlemen who were to act along with him, he named *one*, (Dr Duncan junior), whose sentiments respecting the By-law of 1754 concurred with his own; *two*, (Dr Duncan senior, and Dr Hope), whose sentiments he believed to be different; and the *fourth*, (Dr Buchan), of whose sentiments he was totally ignorant. Such was the Committee said to be packed by the President for the purpose of carrying through this object!

To aggravate his charges against Dr Spens, Dr Gregory asserts, Review, page 24th, that "In that Committee, one of the earliest, if not the very first things he (Dr Spens) did, as I was informed by Dr Duncan senior, (Sunday 25th November), was to propose this most wonderful and unheard-of interpretation of that law of 11th April 1754, which, but eight years before, he wanted to have repealed, as having almost an opposite meaning."

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The assertions in this paragraph are in every particular contrary to truth. Dr Spens did not propose this interpretation—he objected to it. This interpretation was not one of the first things proposed in the Committee; and Dr Duncan authorises the College to say, that he never gave Dr Gregory such information.

Equally inconsistent with truth is another account which he has given in his Defence, p. 28. of the reason which induced the College to appoint the Committee. "All the copies of the former edition of our laws being exhausted, it would have been absurd to object to having them *reprinted*, (according to the President's suggestion 7th February 1804), for that would have been to insist, that we should be governed by laws which we could not know, or could learn only by a tedious and laborious search into our old records."

It is scarcely possible to conceive how Dr Gregory could venture to assert a falsehood so palpable, that it could not for an instant escape detection. The fact is, that the Librarian has at this moment in his custody more than 100 copies of that edition, a number sufficient to have served the College for fifty years.

With regard to the Committee in general, Dr Gregory asserts, that in suggesting to the consideration of the College, the expediency of so far removing the said restriction, they were guilty of a breach of the solemn obligation which they had subscribed on taking their seats in the College, to preserve unity, amity, and good order among its Members; they exceeded the powers intended to be given them by the College, and were actuated solely by the sordid, unworthy, and disgusting motives of pecuniary advantage; that, urged on by these disgraceful considerations, the *auri sacra fames*, and without even the pretence of any honourable motive or liberal purpose, they smuggled their report into the College, endeavouring, by chicane, fraud, deceit, falsehood, and other unhallowed means, to carry it through; and that when detected, they had resolved, (having secured a majority of the Members to support them), to carry the measure by a vote, in opposition to every consideration of what is true, and lawful, and right, and honourable, and candid, and liberal.

As this account is, in every essential respect, a complete fiction, it is difficult to find words to express the sentiments of indignation which must arise in every liberal mind against the author of such calumnious accusations.

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. The Committee was appointed to revise the laws of the College, and to suggest such alterations as might seem proper. Every law consequently came under their consideration, and was open to their suggestions for change. The Committee was named, according to the common usage of the College, and they executed the task imposed upon them to the best of their judgment, and suggested various important alterations on other parts of the laws, as well as the act 1754. Their report was drawn up in the usual style, and was presented, in every respect according to the ordinary form and usage of the College, first to the Council, and then to the College. Dr Spens, at the time he presented it, announced, both to the Council and to the College, that very important changes were suggested; and he proposed, that it should lie (and accordingly it did lie) on the Library table, till next quarterly meeting, for the perusal of the Members. At the next quarterly meeting, he fairly read out all those parts which contained the material changes; and no determination could possibly be formed respecting them, till the third meeting, at the distance of three months.

In all this procedure every thing was correct and proper, however much Dr Gregory has attempted to distort and misrepresent it. He had not therefore the slightest grounds for alleging that the Report was smuggled into the College, and was concealed, or for complaining that he, or any one else, was kept ignorant of its contents.

Dr Gregory's account of the duty of the Committee, in regard to what they ought to have done, and what they ought not to have done, is not a little extraordinary. In his Review, he has laboured to prove that the Committee was proposed and packed by the President, in order to carry through a favourite project. But in his Defence, he says, that the appointment of that Committee to revise the former edition of the laws, and to make such alterations as might seem necessary to be laid before the College for their consideration, " was *unanimous.*" And he adds, " It was impossible it could be otherwise. All the copies of the former edition of our laws being exhausted," (which, as has already been stated, was by no means the case), " it would have been absurd to object to having them reprinted; it would have been equally absurd to have objected to our laws being reprinted with alterations; it was evidently *necessary*, in good faith, that all those alterations already

ready made in our laws should be attended to in reprinting them." Both these allegations cannot be true; but this is of little comparative importance to what follows. He remarks, " It certainly was *not necessary* for that Committee to make, or to propose for the consideration of the College, any other *alterations* in our laws. If they, of their own accord, chose to propose any others to the consideration of the College, as what they thought *expedient*, they were entitled to do so. But, in *good faith* this ought to have been done in conformity to the general spirit and tenor of our laws, and ought to have been *limited* to such alterations as they expected their Brethren, who *unanimously* appointed them to revise and reprint the laws, would *unanimously approve and adopt*. To suppose a society of men of reputed good sense, and probity, and liberal education, *unanimously* to authorise five of their own number to do what many of them thought highly wrong, and never would consent to, is a kind of absurdity, and at least an incongruity of thought, absolutely inconsistent with the belief of good faith in those who chose to understand their own commission, as having a meaning that could not have been meant by those who gave it them." Defence, p. 29.

The idea, that a Committee, because it was appointed unanimously, was bound to *propose* no other measure than what would be unanimously *assented to*, and the assumption, that proposing was actually *establishing* alterations, which could not be agreed to, expressed so unequivocally in the preceding quotations, afford specimens of *sound reason* and of *logical precision*, for which no one can object to giving Dr Gregory full credit.

He has also repeatedly charged the President and Committee with disregarding, and wilfully and deliberately violating, that most solemn engagement and obligation, by which every Member of the College is bound to do as much as he can to " advance and preserve unity, amity, and good order among all the Fellows, Candidates, and Licentiates thereof." Censor. Let. p. 3. & 122. " A more gross and illiberal violation of the obligation of preserving unity, amity, and good order among the Fellows of this College cannot be conceived," says Dr Gregory, (Rel. Doc. p. 19.), " than that of which they were guilty in their attempt to falsify and subvert our old and wholesome law against any of our Members practising Pharmacy." For which he afterwards declares his opinion, in his usual style,

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that they ought to have been " *expelled* from the College as *knaves;* nay, more, that they should have been excommunicated as heretics or infidels; for by the *express words* of our law and promissory engagement, as they stood in 1804, the time when the offence was committed, by their misconduct in exciting dissension in this College, they forfeited the character, not only of *honest men*, but of *good Christians.*"

The College do not think it necessary to make any comments on the language in which this charge is preferred; but with regard to the charge itself, they must state, that the Committee, instead of violating the obligation in question, did every thing in their power to maintain it, having spontaneously resolved to relinquish their proposal, for the express purpose of preserving peace and harmony in the College. It is true indeed, that this article of the solemn obligation has been violated, and shamefully violated; but Dr Gregory is the guilty person, and tries to avert the charge, by arraigning others. They can with confidence declare, that until the Review and Censorian Letter appeared, the unity, and amity, and good order of the Society were not disturbed. The measure of a relaxation of act 1754, with regard to Pharmacy, proposed by the Committee, like the measure of the relaxation of acts 1750, 1765, and 1772, respecting Surgery, supported and carried through the College by the exertions of Dr James Gregory in 1788, met with keen opposition in the College; but neither of them was calculated to affect, nor did they affect the harmony and good understanding among the Fellows. Nay, upon the latter occasion, viz. in 1804, Dr Gregory himself maintained, to all outward appearance, his usual friendship and intimacy with the Members of the Committee, whose ruin he was secretly meditating, till the very day that he distributed among them his printed abuse.

The charge of falsehood in regard to the Report, and in particular respecting the manner in which the Committee proposed to remove the restriction often mentioned, is peculiarly absurd and malevolent. It is couched in terms the most harsh, rude, and offensive, and it is repeated and pressed by Dr Gregory in almost every page of his papers. An accusation of such a nature against five of his Brethren, possessing in itself not the *smallest shadow of foundation*, must appear to every one an act of no ordinary atrocity. The known integrity of the gentlemen concerned, and the absence of every inducement which could have prompted them

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to commit so base and pitiful an offence, might suffice with all who know them for its confutation. But the charge fortunately contains in itself the evidence of its own absurdity.

When speaking of the Report, (Censor. Let. p. 19.), he says, " If that Report be *false* from *end to end*, which I firmly believe it is; if the preamble of it, that doubts have arisen about the purpose and extent of our law, be *notoriously false*, for as much as no doubts *ever were or could be entertained* on that point," &c.

The assertion in the first clause affords a true and striking picture of the malevolent spirit in which these papers were written, as well as of the uncontrouled freedom with which the most injurious charges are preferred by their author.

The Report actually contained a draught of the *whole laws and regulations* of the College; and Dr Gregory does not scruple to declare his firm belief that it is false from end to end!

The charge of *notorious falsehood*, contained in the second clause, is direct and pointed, but it is totally groundless. The College know that doubts did actually arise in the minds of the Committee respecting the purport and application of the By-law of 1754, and they are not unacquainted with the circumstances and considerations which created them. It would be improper to detail them in this place, but a statement of them is given in the paper N° II. of the Appendix.

It is of no moment as to the present question, whether the College deem those doubts valid and well founded or not. They abstain from giving any opinion on that subject. The actual existence of doubts, however, sufficiently shews the calumnious nature of the charge. It must appear very extraordinary, and not very consistent with the romantic sense of honour of which Dr Gregory so frequently boasts, that he should have preferred a charge of so serious a nature, without waiting till the business should be discussed in the College, without making any enquiry, which it was easy for him to have done, concerning the existence of such doubts, and the grounds of them, and without affording the Committee any opportunity of explaining their sentiments upon the subject, or of supporting their assertion.

Dr Gregory has also accused the Committee of chicane and falsification. As this charge, like the former, is a favourite calumny, frequently repeated and strongly insisted on, it may be right

to state the particulars, to shew that it is equally malevolent and groundless as the rest.

The Committee, as formerly mentioned, when engaged in revising and considering the different By-laws, became satisfied that it would be expedient for the College to allow such of its resident Members as were inclined, to furnish medicines to their own patients, and therefore determined to suggest, that the prohibition supposed to be enjoined by the act 1754 should be removed. The simplest way of effecting this would have been, to have omitted in their draught of the laws the act 1754, and to have proposed another law to be adopted in its place.

The Committee, however, on examining the history of the origin of that act, and particularly on considering the report of a Committee in 1753, in consequence of which the act was afterwards passed, with the statement of its object and purpose given in the preamble itself, and the various other circumstances detailed in the Appendix, were led to entertain doubts, whether the act really and truly had the broad and comprehensive meaning, in which the College had been in the practice of interpreting it. There was, and there could be no question as to the sense in which the College did at this time understand it; the only doubt was, whether it ought to be so understood, and on this point the Committee among themselves were not altogether of one mind. The doubts, however, upon the whole, respecting the true purport and extent of the act 1754, were so strong, as to induce the Committee to resolve to submit them to the College, and to suggest, for the consideration of their Brethren, a mode of removing the restriction in question, by which the repeal of the act would become unnecessary.

In the idea, that the same arguments which had weighed with them, would make a similar impression on the College, they proposed, instead of repealing the act, to prefix or add a clause, declaratory of its purport and extent, as then understood by them. In adopting this method, they followed a practice sanctioned by the Legislature itself, which frequently passes acts for the purpose of explaining the purport and extent of preceding acts; and they submitted to the consideration of the College the declaratory clause above quoted, page 4. But correct as this procedure of the Committee certainly was, Dr Gregory has thought fit to pronounce

nounce it, with his habitual coarseness, an act of fraud, chicane, and falsification.

If, in place of the declaratory clause, the Committee had interpolated any words of their own; if they had substituted one expression for another, or omitted any part of the original law, and had then endeavoured to pass such a fabrication as the act 1754, there would have been grounds for reprehension. But the Committee proposed nothing but what was fair and open, and sanctioned by the highest authority; and the College have understood, that their only reason for preferring this method to a partial repeal and a new enactment, was, that the act 1754 might continue as an old established law, to prevent the conjunction of the profession of Physic and of the common Apothecary in the same person. The charge of chicane, falsification, fraud, &c. then, is utterly groundless, or, to speak more correctly, is quite absurd. If doubts had not really arisen in the Committee respecting the true meaning of the act 1754, for what imaginable reason could they have said so? Their *explanation* was just as public, as intelligible, and as easy to be combated, as a motion for repeal. They could not possibly gain any thing as to secrecy, management, or authority, by the one mode of proceeding more than by the other. Unless Dr Gregory, therefore, can persuade his readers, that the Members of the Committee chose to tell a *gratuitous* falsehood, out of pure love of lying, it is impossible that his charge of falsification, even if it were not directly refuted, could ever be listened to by any person of common understanding.

There is another charge, of a less serious nature, though equally groundless and illiberal. Dr Gregory boldly asserts his conviction, that the Committee had *resolved* to carry through their favourite measure, by a majority of votes, (which he calls force), in defiance of reason and argument, and of all considerations of what was honourable and just; and he publishes this assertion, long *after* he had received positive information, that the Committee had come to a formal resolution to relinquish the proposal, first from Dr James Home, in general terms, and afterwards specially and particularly from Dr Hamilton senior, at the express desire of Dr Spens. The threat, that in case the alteration of the By-law should be carried in the College, " he would bring the question under the review of the Court of Session,"

sion," after he had been thus apprised that the measure was to be withdrawn, must have been thrown out with the intention of impressing a belief, that all he had done in this subject had been regulated by a sense of duty.

For the purpose of making this account of the conduct of Dr Spens and the Committee appear credible, he has accused them of having been influenced by the most unworthy considerations. In many parts of his Censorian Letter he asserts, that they had been actuated by a sordid regard to their own pecuniary interest; and that they had been led by the love of money to depart from those honourable and liberal views which had induced their predecessors to enact the By-law which they had attempted to repeal. The College trusts that such an imputation can obtain no credit against any one of that Committee; but it happens fortunately for the gentlemen in question, that their views and situations were *notoriously* such as to preclude the possibility, either of their having any regard to their own emolument in the business, or of Dr Gregory believing that they had any.

The Committee consisted of five Members. Dr Spens, the President, has uniformly declared, and on one remarkable occasion to Dr Gregory himself, (for the circumstance is *recorded by Dr Gregory*, Censor. Letter, p. 6.) that he had no intentions of altering his mode of practice. Dr Duncan senior had in 1796 opposed the partial repeal of the act 1754, and was not more desirous at this than at the former period, of engaging in the practice of furnishing medicines. Dr Hope was indifferent about practice of any description, and certainly had no idea of availing himself of the proposed permission: *and Dr Gregory was thoroughly acquainted* with his sentiments upon this subject. Dr Buchan *was not engaged at all in the practice of Physic in Edinburgh.* He was in Scotland by chance, at the time of the revisal of the laws, as one of the Physicians to his Majesty's forces; and had actually left Edinburgh, and gone abroad on foreign service, several weeks before the appearance of the Review and Censorian Letter. Dr Duncan junior was the *only* Member who it was possible to conceive could avail himself of the permission; but whatever might have been his intentions, no one could doubt, that he was influenced by the same honourable feelings, which actuated the other Members of the Committee.

It is impossible that any man possessed of the smallest share of candour and liberality, or even of an ordinary regard for truth, could,

could, in the knowledge of these circumstances, maintain, that the Committee had acted from the selfish and unworthy considerations of personal advantage.

But even if Dr Gregory had been ignorant of them, it certainly would have been no very extraordinary exertion of charity on his part, to have supposed, that the Members of the Committee might be actuated by motives, of the same liberal description with those which, he says, influenced himself in 1788, when he espoused the cause of Midwifery, and when he assisted so much in carrying the measure of permitting the Fellows to practise that branch of Surgery.

There is indeed one very obvious reason why he should maintain that the Committee had yielded to the influence of the sordid love of gain, and regarded only their own pecuniary advantage, in opposition to what was true and liberal. It was absolutely necessary to the consistency of his charges, that he should assign some *motive*, of great and irresistible power, which should prove sufficient to induce five most respectable and honourable men to quit the paths of truth and rectitude, and resort to "crooked ways, unhallowed means, chicane, deceit, fraud," &c. It required no great penetration to discover, that if he had done justice to the *motives* of the Committee, and had allowed that these were pure and disinterested, as was truly the case, his accusations of dishonourable conduct could gain no credit, and that his labour-ed defamation would have appeared, as it must now appear, not less extravagant than malevolent.

Although the Committee, in consequence of the Report being withdrawn, without any debate upon the subject, had no opportunity of stating the reasons which weighed with them, in proposing the removal of that restriction, the College was perfectly satisfied, that they had acted solely from the most honourable and disinterested motives, and from a belief that that change would tend to promote the future well-being of the College, and the advancement of Medicine in general. Whether that opinion was well or ill founded, it is altogether unnecessary to discuss; but whatever sentiment may be entertained upon the subject, and it is one which certainly admits of different opinions, every candid and liberal mind must be satisfied, that there is no ground for attributing to these gentlemen the mean, corrupt, and illiberal *motives* which Dr Gregory has thought proper to assign.

That the misrepresentations thus exposed cannot have originated

ginated from inadvertency, is evident from this, that many of them are so deliberately contrived, that Dr Gregory himself must have been fully aware of their atrociousness. Even in his history of the earlier proceedings of the College, relative to act 1754, he appears to have indulged designedly in falsification. Thus he has mutilated, for his own purposes, the extract of the Minute printed p. 4. and 5. of his Review. In p. 13. of the same work, he says, " In 1759 a Committee was appointed to revise the act in question. Their Report, fully approving of it, was adopted 6th November 1759." But in contradiction to this, the College positively declare, that neither was such a Committee appointed, nor such a Report made. And he has also suppressed a great part of the proceedings of 1761, although those proceedings related to the act 1754, and in fact furnish part of the grounds, upon which the doubts, expressed by the Committee, with regard to the purport and extent of that By-law, are founded. It is not to be credited that he could have been insensible of having committed such falsifications; on the contrary, it is probable, that the consciousness of what he had done, suggested those invectives against falsehood and chicanery, contained in his Censorian Letter. They are apparently for the purpose of persuading his readers, that he held such nefarious practices in detestation.

Dr Gregory, by way of justifying in some degree the unwarrantable measure of appealing to the public, mentions, in the Censorian Letter, p. 6. that he had not recourse to it, till he had made an attempt to discuss the business of the Report in private, with those Members of the Committee with whom he was in intimacy and friendship, to make them aware of its impropriety,—to tell them plainly his opinion, both of the measure itself, and of the manner in which it had been conducted,—and to warn them of the probable or certain consequences of persevering in such a plan. Had he really performed what he thus professes, though it could never justify such publications, it would have entitled him to claim the merit of having exerted himself to prevent a proposal from being carried through the College, which he considered as highly inexpedient. Let the public judge of his claim to this merit.

Some days after the meeting of the College in November 1804, Dr Gregory waited on Dr Spens, whom he found in extreme pain and distress from the toothach. A real friend, anxious to avoid the violent

violent measure of a public attack, might have mentioned the purpose of his visit, but would have postponed to another and more suitable opportunity the discussion of so important a subject. Dr Gregory, however, persisted; and he draws the most ungenerous inferences from what he calls the cold and forbidding reception he met with; although he at last, with apparent reluctance, admits, that Dr Spens "was at that time embarrassed and in pain from the toothach." The detail of this conversation, as given by Dr Gregory, is in many respects erroneous, and artfully contrived to represent Dr Spens as if conscious of having acted improperly.

"I hinted to him, that if he persevered in that measure, and carried it through, it would probably make an irreparable breach or secession among us. My words were, If you persist in this plan, it must be a matter of consideration with some of us, whether we shall not withdraw from the College altogether. This intimation he received very coolly, telling me only he did not see it in that light, and that the College must decide upon it. As he expressed no surprise or uneasiness at my strong intimation, I could not help thinking that he expected and was prepared for such a consequence of his perseverance. As a last effort, I begged leave to call his attention to the manner in which this business had been conducted, particularly to the strange interpretation of our old law of 1754. Of all that I said, this was the only thing that seemed to make any impression on him. He remained silent for some time, but at last said, with some hesitation, To be sure, it is a strong thing, with the preamble of the law staring us in the face." Cens. Lett. p. 7.

The fact is nearly the reverse in every respect of what is here stated. The allusion of Dr Gregory to the *manner* in which this business had been conducted, made no impression whatever on Dr Spens, because, being conscious of having acted throughout with perfect integrity and disinterestedness, he had no conception of the meaning or object of Dr Gregory's allusion. On the other hand, he received his threat to withdraw from the College both with surprise and displeasure; and it was in reply to that threat, that Dr Spens used the expression, "That would be a strong measure;" which Dr Gregory has chosen, by the addition of other words, and the misapplication of it, to convert into an acknowledgment on the part of Dr Spens that his conduct had been highly improper.

Dr Gregory has not been more faithful in his report of the endeavours he made to convince Dr Hope that *he* was wrong. The greatest intimacy and friendship had subsisted between Dr Gregory and the father of Dr Hope, and they appeared to be transferred to the son, who, Dr Gregory states, possessed his "*esteem, confidence, and friendship,*" (Cens. Lett. p. 106.) to such a degree indeed, that he was about to give both him and his brother "the strongest proof of esteem and confidence that one man can give to another." No coolness or interruption had ever taken place in the friendship which subsisted between them, and Dr Hope reposed the most implicit confidence in Dr Gregory's openness and candour. It was to be expected, that in those circumstances he should have fully communicated to Dr Hope all his objections to the measure, and his views with regard to it *. He called once on Dr Hope: he found him on the point of setting out for the country, and extremely hurried with a great deal of business, which he was obliged to arrange before he left town. Of this, which was the only conversation between them on the subject, Dr Gregory has given the following account.

"Presuming still more on the strict friendship and confidence that had long subsisted between Dr Hope and me, I waited on him, after my interview with the President, to tell him my sentiments with respect to the plan in agitation, and especially the Report of that Committee, of which he was a member. My conversation with him was much shorter, and, if possible, less satisfactory, than that with the President. He seemed much hurried with other business, and impatient to have done with the conversation. All I could learn from the little that he said, was, that his opinion, and that of several other Members of the College, with respect to the measure proposed, was totally different from mine; and that the College must determine it. Before I left him, I took the liberty to call his attention to the *manner* in which the business had been conducted, and the Report of the Committee with respect to the import of our law in 1754, and received for answer,

* Such at least are the notions which the College, in common with the bulk of mankind, entertain of the duties of friendship. The lofty mind of Dr Gregory seems to pride itself on being above those weaknesses, and will no doubt redouble its contempt for his Brethren when he is told, that no part of his conduct has filled them with greater disgust, than the heartless promptitude with which he violated the bonds of friendship that subsisted between him and Dr Hope, and the unfeeling levity with which he talks of changing his friend, as he would change his shoemaker or his dog. *Vid.* Cens. Lett. page 107.

answer, " If it is only the manner you object to, we shan't differ about that." He never was more mistaken in his life; for I think the manner just as bad as the measure; and worse it cannot be. The sentiment expressed, and the manner in which it was expressed, left me no doubt of his determined resolution to carry through the measure, in any manner, or by any possible means; and no inclination to make any reply. I could not be mistaken, either as to the sentiment expressed, or as to the very striking manner of expressing it; for a gentleman who accidentally heard the conclusion of our conversation, immediately interposed, saying, with peculiar emphasis, " Oh no, let every thing be done openly and fairly." Censor. Lett. p. 8 *.

Short as this conversation necessarily was, Dr Gregory has suppressed a most material part of it. He began by acknowledging, that he was aware that Dr Hope could have no interested motive, no personal advantage in view, when he supported the plan of allowing the resident Members of the College to furnish medicines to their own patients. Dr Hope's answer to this remark was so pointed, that it could not have escaped Dr Gregory's recollection: He said, " That he (Dr Hope) certainly could have no interested motive,—he had already one Laboratory, (alluding to his situation as Professor of Chemistry in the University), a great deal too good to permit him ever to think of another."

This part of the conversation Dr Gregory has thought proper to suppress; for if he had stated it, it would have shewn how little reason there was to accuse Dr Hope of being influenced by sordid or selfish considerations on this occasion. Dr Gregory has not contented himself with suppressing one part of the conversation; but he has misapplied and perverted the expressions used by Dr Hope towards the conclusion of it in the most unfair and disingenuous manner. He alluded to the manner in which the business was brought forward, but did not explain himself particularly respecting it. Dr Hope, who was not conscious that there was any thing objectionable in the manner in which

* In the Defence, p. 82. Dr Gregory gives the following false and ludicrous account of this reception by Dr Hope. " The other received me with the most triumphant exultation, in a manner that might be called either sneering or laughing in my face, for it was something between the two, and withal connected with such unequivocal signs of impatience to have done with the conversation, that it was impossible for me to continue it."

the business had been conducted, said, " If it is only the manner you object to, we shan't differ about that;" meaning, as these words plainly and clearly import, that if Dr Gregory objected to the *manner* in which the measure was brought forward, Dr Hope would agree that it should be brought forward in any manner which his friend would approve of*. Dr Gregory says, " he never was more mistaken in his life; for I think the manner as bad as the measure, and worse it cannot be. The sentiment expressed, and the manner in which it was expressed, left me no doubt of his determined resolution to carry through the measure, in any manner, or by any possible means."

The means, he soon after points out to be, fraud, chicane, deceit, falsehood, &c.

He adds, " I could not be mistaken, either as to the sentiment expressed, or as to the very striking manner of expressing it; for a gentleman, who accidentally heard the conclusion of our conversation, immediately interposed, saying, with a peculiar emphasis, " *Oh no, let every thing be done openly and fairly.*" Upon this perversion of these few words used in a hurried conversation, Dr Gregory has not hesitated to attribute sentiments to Dr Hope, which none but the most unprincipled outcasts of society have ever avowed. He has acknowledged, Cens. Let. p. 8. 105, 106, 107. that he knew Dr Hope from his earliest youth, and that he thought him worthy of his esteem, his confidence, and his friendship; was it credible, that Dr Hope should at once, without any motive whatever, avow, and to him too, principles diametrically opposite to those upon which he had uniformly acted throughout life? There cannot be a more striking proof of the strange turn of Dr Gregory's mind, than that he has perverted the most innocent expressions, used for the purpose of concession and conciliation, into a barefaced avowal of the most profligate and unprincipled sentiments, so totally inconsistent with the uniform tenor of Dr Hope's character and conduct, even as represented by Dr Gregory himself.

The gentleman to whom Dr Gregory has thought proper to allude on this occasion, as confirming his interpretation of what Dr Hope had

* In the Defence, p. 151, with the same disregard to truth, this expression is twisted into the only instance Dr Gregory knew of a person avowing as his principle of action the immoral principle, that the end sanctifies the means; and adds, " But that was said in an unguarded moment of great exultation in the supposed success of a stratagem that he had employed."

had said, is no other than Mr James Hope, whom he has introduced as a witness against his brother. The College, however, are in possession of a solemn declaration from that gentleman, from which it appears, *that the part of the statement which refers to him is absolutely false*; that he did *not interpose*, as stated by Dr Gregory; and that he did not utter even a single word which bore any relation to, far less imported any condemnation of the sentiments of his brother, or of his manner of expressing them. *Vide* App. N° VI.

Dr Gregory says, that this was the last friendly conversation he ever could have with Dr Hope; and so it should have been, as he immediately began, in secret, to prepare his abusive papers for the press. But it is to be particularly noticed, that after this, for nearly three months, during which time he was meditating a foul blow at the fame and reputation of his friend, he continued in the usual habits of friendly intercourse with both Dr Hope and his brother; indeed he acted with such hypocrisy, that neither of them entertained the smallest suspicion, that this conversation had in any way disturbed their mutual esteem and regard. He cannot have forgotten, that but a few days before his publication appeared, he received a most unquestionable proof, that both Dr Hope and his brother reposed in him the same confidence, and felt the same sentiments of regard and respect for him, which they had always done. Under those circumstances, it will easily be conceived, how great was their astonishment, when the Review and Censorian Letter were put into their hands.

The third attempt was made on Dr Duncan senior. Though Dr Gregory calls it a feeble one, yet it was of a most extraordinary nature. So far from being by way of *arguing and remonstrating*, it was a deliberate stratagem, to obtain from Dr Duncan, by premeditated cunning and address, an unguarded answer, which might furnish matter for reprehension and accusation against himself, and his colleague Dr Spens.

Dr Gregory (Cens. Let. p. 9.) does not blush to state, that he had prepared a dilemma for Dr Duncan; and Dr Duncan has informed the College, that he sprung it upon him in his own carriage, while perfectly unaware of his purpose, and while reposing confidence in his openness and apparent cordiality.

Stratagems in war are practised by all nations, but stratagems, while nations are at peace, would be deemed transgressions even against the law of nations. To contrive questions or dilemmas, for the

purpose

purpose of entrapping an unwary friend, to propose these, as if by chance, with the view of obtaining a reply, to be afterwards employed against the unsuspecting victim or his friends, cannot surely fail to excite the indignation of mankind.

The dilemma related to the exact period, in which Dr Duncan changed his opinion, respecting the propriety of the resident Members furnishing medicines to their patients, and was intended to discover, whether this change had taken place, before or after, he was named a Member of the Committee by Dr Spens, in the hopes, that by his answer, Dr Gregory might be able to support his charge against the President, of having packed the Committee. Dr Duncan mentioned, that he had changed his opinion at the time that the business was discussed in the Committee.

He thus learned, that Dr Duncan had not changed his sentiments in regard to the act 1754, till some time *after* the appointment of the Committee by Dr Spens. Nothing, therefore, can afford a stronger proof of Dr Gregory's want of candour, than his not drawing the fair and only possible inference from the information which he received, *viz.* that Dr Spens had not packed the Committee; and nothing better ascertains his disregard to truth, than his persisting, in the face of this information, to accuse Dr Spens of having packed the Committee, by naming those Members only whose sentiments he knew to concur with his own. It is therefore not a little extraordinary that he should have boasted of a stratagem, which not only failed in its aim on the person against whom it was intended, but also marks so strongly the value he sets on this act of *sinister wisdom*.

He was not in the same habits of intimacy with Dr James Buchan, and he says, "I felt too great respect for him, on account of certain circumstances to be mentioned afterwards, to allow me to enter on so painful a discussion with him." Cens. Lett. p. 10. These circumstances relate to the meritorious conduct of that gentleman in Egypt, which displayed his intrepid and honourable humanity in the performance of his professional duty, and exhibited an instance of disinterestedness seldom equalled. Dr Gregory pourtrays his conduct on this occasion in terms of just panegyric; and yet has not scrupled to charge the person, (for whom he has thus expressed so much respect), as one of the Committee, with the most dishonourable and unprincipled conduct, dictated by sordid, mean, and selfish considerations, in the

business

business of revising the laws; in which it is not immaterial to observe, that from his having had most leisure, he was in fact the principal labourer.

Dr Gregory has declaimed much on the purity of his own motives in writing his Review and Censorian Letter; but it is difficult to conceive, how the professed object, of preventing a measure of which he greatly disapproved, could possibly be the real one, since a very few pages only of the Censorian Letter were written, when he was informed, from the most unquestionable authority, that the measure was relinquished. The College has no disposition to investigate his motives minutely, though it appears very certain that they deserve no praise. Many, indeed, might be assigned, but it is perhaps not easy to ascertain the true one. To those, however, who take delight in the task of analyzing human nature and human actions, it might be a matter of some curiosity to calculate, how far *pride*, wounded by the want of that deference which it was in the habit of exacting, operating on a mind unaccustomed to controul its passions;—how far the unbounded wish of displaying superior talents for controversial writing, and the earnest desire of making a parade of sentiments of high and romantic honour; —and how far the pleasing expectation of exalting his own character for professional liberality and disinterestedness above that of all his Brethren, may tend to explain the conduct of Dr Gregory on this occasion.—" In vain (says he himself on another occasion) shall the munificence of our Sovereign, the favour, partial perhaps, yet not, I trust, quite unmerited, of our country, the grateful attachment of those who here first caught the flame of virtue and of science, rear for our use buildings more splendid than the porticoes of Athens, if attempts are made to raise the fame and fill the pockets of any of our number, by arts that would disgrace an advertising or a circumforaneous mountebank."

There are two other parts of the Censorian Letter which it may be proper to notice particularly, viz. his attempts to affix a stigma on the character of the Committee, by the degrading comparison of their conduct with that of the election-agents of a rotten borough, and the stake of his own fame and fortune on the truth of his assertions, the validity of his reasonings, the openness of his conduct, &c.

In

In regard to the former of these, he says, " In some great and noble concerns, especially in election politics, there is a general and complete dispensation from all those romantic principles, and I believe, from all principles whatever."

" The steady adherence to his party, through thick and thin, right and wrong, is more valuable to his friends, and more useful to himself, than the high romantic virtues of integrity, veracity, and candour."

" But I never heard, nor do I believe, that the same dispensations have been granted to men of our profession, in their intercourse with one another, or with their fellow citizens. Unless our Brethren, who have favoured us with the report under consideration, are very sure that the public will estimate their merit by the same rule by which it estimates the merits of election-agents in a rotten borough, they must, by their own conduct, in a matter of such public notoriety and concern, *have lost that state and estimation in society, which they will find it impossible ever to regain.*"

" All men of common sense must see, that they have an interest in their Physicians being men of the *purest* integrity and liberality they can find; for this plain reason, that men of our profession have innumerable advantages, if they are so base as to avail themselves of them, in their intercourse with the rest of mankind. If once they begin to *give themselves a dispensation* from any restraint with respect to moral and liberal conduct, it is impossible to guess where they will stop." Cens. Let. p. 90. 91. 93.

The reader, it is more than probable, has already determined in his own mind, to whom the stigma of having dispensed with all restraints of moral and liberal conduct justly attaches.

Every man who has the feelings of a gentleman must observe the truly malevolent spirit, the determined *animus injuriandi*, evinced by Dr Gregory in these and many other passages, and must regard with the highest indignation, so deliberate an attempt to rob five of his Brethren, some of whom had been his most intimate and confidential friends, of " their state and estimation in society."

The pledge of his fame and fortune on the truth of his assertions is expressed in the following words. " In the mean time they will please to observe, that I deliberately stake my fame and fortune on

on the truth of the assertions, the validity of the reasonings, and the justness of the sentiments expressed in this Censorian Letter, and in my Review of the Proceedings of our College with respect to the same subject, from 1753 to 1804. I admit of the *possibility* of there being some *little unintended* mistakes in what I have written; which mistakes I shall be happy to rectify, as soon as they shall be pointed out to me. But on the truth, and validity, and justness of the *general tenor* of my discourse, on the purity of my motives, the uprightness of my intentions, and the candour and openness of my conduct, in this very strong measure, I chearfully stake my fame and fortune."—Cens. Let. p. 120.

On this solemn and deliberate pledge it is necessary to offer a short commentary; for it is expressed in such strong language, that persons unacquainted with the circumstances of the case, might suppose Dr Gregory to have been sincere in staking it.

First, He has staked his fame and fortune on the *truth of his assertions.* Is it possible that he should have believed himself to have been asserting what was true, in saying, that when he wrote his Censorian Letter, he was discharging "part of the painful and laborious duty of Censor," (Cens. Lett. p. 1.)? That the first act of Dr Spens's administration was, under the cloak of having the laws reprinted with alterations, to pack a Committee, for the purpose of carrying through a sinister purpose, (Rev. p. 24. & 25.)? That the report of the Committee was false from end to end? That the assertion of the Committee, that doubts had been entertained respecting the purport and extent of the act 1754, was notoriously false, (Cens. Lett. p. 19.)? That the Committee were actuated by the most sordid, selfish, and unworthy motives? That the same Committee had employed chicane, deceit, and unhallowed means, to accomplish their favourite project, (*Ibid. passim,*)? And that he had attempted to explain in private to some of the Members of the Committee his opinion of the plan they had proposed,—of the manner in which it had been conducted,—and had warned them of its probable, or certain consequences? The falsehood of all those, and of various other assertions having been already pointed out, it is only necessary to recal to Dr Gregory's recollection his own most apposite remark, (Cens. Lett. p. 90.) "But I do not remember to have heard of even one instance, of a man who, after having once failed in

probity and veracity, ever acquired or regained the character of a gentleman."

Secondly, Dr Gregory has staked his fame and fortune on the *validity of his reasonings*. But can it be believed, that he supposed his reasonings valid, when he contended that the repeal of a *by-law, which was made above half a century after the institution of the College*, would be immoral, base, and disgraceful, (Cens. Lett. p. 80.)? That a by-law of that description is a fundamental and indefeasible part of the Constitution of the College, (Ibid. p. 4.)? That any alteration of such a by-law would be a breach of faith; and that an actual repeal of that by-law, which, it is to be remembered is not binding upon the Members of the College *who do not reside in Edinburgh*, would be contrary to the laws of the country? It is impossible that any man in the possession of sound judgment could suppose, even for a moment, such reasonings to be valid.

Thirdly, Dr Gregory has staked his fame and fortune on the *purity of his motives*, the *uprightness of his intentions*, and *the candour and openness of his conduct*. But can it be said, that a man has been actuated by pure motives and upright intentions, who, in an unwarrantable appeal to the public, loads his Brethren with invective, upon the plea of their having continued to support a measure (be that measure good or bad, it is of no consequence), which he knows they had relinquished? Or will Dr Gregory venture to declare that person to have acted with candour and openness, who contrives dilemmas for his unsuspecting friends, with the design of taking advantage of their unguarded answers, and who continues to deceive those friends by appearances of frankness and intimacy, while meditating, and actually, but secretly, engaged in preparing those poniards with which he intended to stab them, in respects the most tender and dear to man?

These circumstances were too well known to the Members of the College, to permit any impression to be made on their minds by his ostentatious stake of fame and fortune, which, they believe, was intended to impose upon the world at large,—not upon them: and with regard to his boasts of liberality, sincerity, delicate attention to the feelings and sentiments of others, romantic notions of candour, probity, and veracity, &c. they have indeed found these very frequently repeated in his papers; but of their existence and

and operation on his conduct towards his Brethren, they could discover not a trace.

A man possessed of these qualities, faithfully reports matters of fact—puts the most favourable construction upon every transaction and its motives—never indulges in groundless and injurious insinuations—is slow to accuse—happy to acquit, and averse to condemn.

While the misrepresentations (the most remarkable only of which have been thus pointed out) contained in the Review and Censorian Letter were fresh in the minds of the Members, they felt themselves called upon to adopt some measure for the vindication of the characters of their injured Brethren.

A resolution was drawn up by the Council, strongly expressing their opinion of the honourable conduct and pure motives of the President and Committee in the business of revising the laws. This resolution was communicated to most of the Fellows; and on the following day, the 5th February 1805, *every Member* then on the roll * came to the Meeting, with the exception of Dr Gregory alone, who absented himself intentionally, as he afterwards informed the College, though cited in the same manner as the rest. The following extract from the minutes will best shew the proceedings on that occasion.

" The President intimated, that the next business which came before the College, was a measure, recommended to them by the Council, relating to himself, " and he requested the Vice-President to take the Chair.

" The Clerk then read the motion of the Council, which is as follows :—

" The College, taking into consideration the concern which the President has had in the late revisal of the laws, and the great trouble and attention he has bestowed on this, are of opinion, however different the sentiments of the different Members may be upon that subject, that he has acted from the purest motives, and in the most honourable manner; and that he well deserves the thanks of the College, which they request the Vice-President to give him; and they appoint this resolution to be engrossed in the Minutes.

* Viz. Dr Spens, Dr Wright, Dr Monro, Dr Duncan, Dr Hamilton senior, Dr Rutherford, Dr Stuart, Dr Home, Dr Yule, Dr Hamilton junior, Dr Hope, Dr Duncan junior, Dr Monro junior, and Dr Morison.

" The Clerk having then called the roll, the whole Members approved of the motion, with the exception of one Member, who objected merely to the form of the motion, but who agreed with all the other Members of the College, that the President had acted in an honourable manner.

" Thereafter a motion from the Council respecting the Committee for revising the laws, the same with the preceding, *mutatis mutandis*, was read by the Clerk, was put to the vote, and carried in the same manner.—Which resolutions of the College were accordingly intimated to the President and Committee by the Vice-President.

" The President having then resumed the Chair, represented in name of the late Committee for revising the laws, that having taken into consideration the wide difference of opinion which subsisted among the Members of the College, relative to certain alterations proposed in their Report, they had, about the middle of December last, met together, and formed the resolution of moving for leave once more to revise the laws, in order to withdraw those parts of their Report which were likely to divide the College. He therefore moved, that the Report might be recommitted,—that the Report, when so amended, with any other alterations which might appear expedient, be again circulated among the Members, and be considered by the College at next quarterly meeting.

" Which motion was unanimously agreed to, and the business was recommitted to the same Committee."

The College thus gave an undeniable proof of their confidence in that Committee, in the very face of Dr Gregory's laboured attempt to represent the Members of it as totally unworthy of confidence, by recommitting the Report to Dr Spens, Drs Duncan, senior and junior, and Dr Hope, refusing, even at their earnest request, to allow the place of Dr Buchan, who had gone abroad, to be supplied, lest it might afford an opportunity for malevolent misconstructions.

In thus vindicating the Committee from the aspersions of Dr Gregory, every Member cordially concurred. Those who had most strongly disapproved of the measure to which he objects, and would have opposed it keenly, joined in an unanimous vote, that the conduct of the President and Committee had been perfectly honourable; and the motion itself was introduced by one

one of those gentlemen who disapproved of the change. Further, the College not only declined giving any opinion on the proposed alteration or interpretation of the enactment of 1754, but expressly stated, that the sentiments of the Members differed on that subject.

The College upon that occasion acted from one common sentiment, in which they all equally participated, that of vindicating the characters of their Brethren, which had been most unjustly attacked. While they were unanimous on this subject, they thought it unnecessary to take any notice of Dr Gregory, or of his publications, which were not regularly before them, having neither been sent to the College, nor to all the individual Members. The minutes containing that resolution received the sanction of another full meeting in May 1805, from which he, though again regularly cited, again voluntarily absented himself.

The College took another occasion of marking their decided approbation of the conduct of their President Dr Spens. The office of President is annual, and no Member can be chosen oftener than twice in succession, unless when, under particular circumstances, he is again called to the Chair by the unanimous voice of the electors. In December 1805, after the expiration of the second year of Dr Spens's presidentship, the College, for the express purpose of marking their complete disbelief of the calumnious imputations which had been published against him, elected him President for the third time; and when he quitted the chair in December 1806, the new President moved the thanks of the College to his predecessor in the following terms, which were suggested by the occurrences which had taken place: "That the thanks of the College be returned to Dr Spens, the late worthy President, for his great attention to the interests and affairs of the College, and for his honourable conduct while in the chair." This motion, seconded in the warmest manner by Dr Yule, was unanimously agreed to.

At the quarterly meeting in May 1805, the amended Report of the Committee was taken into consideration. The Committee had withdrawn, not only the part which related to the act 1754, but some other important parts, particularly several new regulations respecting the admission of Fellows, which they thought might divide the College. After considerable discussion in repeated meetings, respecting different alterations proposed, the Report was finally adopted, 5th November 1805; upon which Dr Duncan junior protested

protested against the adoption and continuance of the act 1754, and delivered his reasons of protest in writing. *Vide* Appendix, N° III.

SECT. II.

After the quarterly meeting in May 1805, Dr Gregory attended the Royal College as usual, and conducted himself at least quietly, till towards the end of the year 1806, when he took advantage of an accidental occurrence to make a most violent attack upon the College at large.

Dr Stuart, the present President, happened, on his way to the meeting of Council, August 4th 1806, to have a conversation with a medical gentleman, who was not a member of the College, but who talked of some of their proceedings, (not those which had any reference to Dr Gregory), in a manner which convinced Dr Stuart that the affairs of the College were unnecessarily made the subject of conversation out of doors, and very much misrepresented. The charter of the College of Physicians imposes on them the duty of visiting Apothecaries shops, (as in London and Dublin), for the purpose of examining the quality of drugs. That practice had, however, been discontinued by the College. It had been at different times proposed to revive it; but it appeared to the College, that any visitation they could make might be so easily evaded, and that it was not likely to be attended with any material advantage to the public.

At the meeting of the 4th of August 1806, a motion on this subject was submitted to the Council; and as Dr Stuart had just learned the misrepresentations circulated with regard to a measure which he considered as rather of a delicate nature, he, without any previous communication with any of the Members of the College, indeed without any farther premeditation, suggested to the Council, the propriety of an admonition from the College to the Members, with regard to the expediency of their observing silence out of doors respecting the private business of the College.

This admonition was read to the College on the following day, and was assented to without comment from any quarter. It was in the following words: "The President stated, That he had, by desire of the Council, to mention a circumstance which the Council considered of much importance to the College, but which was not intended to have particular reference to what may have happened at any former period. The mention out of doors of what

passes

passes in any of the meetings of the College, may be attended with most unpleasant and even prejudicial consequences, both to individual Members and to the College as a body. The Council therefore take the liberty of recommending a strict observance of secrecy with regard to all such proceedings; and as they are convinced that every gentleman must be sensible of the propriety and necessity of this measure, they trust that in future it will be rigidly adhered to."

Dr Gregory, who was not present on this occasion, having heard of the admonition, immediately conceived, or affected to conceive, that it was part of a plot against himself, contrived by the Committee, whom he had formerly calumniated, and came to the next meeting, November 5. 1806, deliberately prepared, and seemingly resolved, to insult the College.

Under the pretence of asking information, he began to read, from a large bundle of papers, a series of most extraordinary queries, which struck every one present with astonishment. *Vide* App. N° IV. Some discussion ensued, upon which Dr Stuart took the opportunity of assuring him in the most solemn manner, (as he has since repeated to himself, both in conversation and in writing), that the origin of the admonition was altogether accidental, and bore no reference to him or his conduct, and explained its real object. The Members of the Committee, against whom his Censorian Letter had been directed, also stated, that they were all totally ignorant of the admonition till it was proposed by Dr Stuart in the Council, and some of them until it was read in the College.

Dr Gregory, probably impelled by a consciousness of guilt, and aware that his secret and insidious hostilities were not very consistent with his high pretensions to openness and candour, insisted, that the admonition was levelled at him on account of his publications, declaimed with great violence against it, and then in an impassioned tone, declared, " Since the College will have war, they *shall* have war, and that not *secret* but *open* war."

He then proceeded to finish the reading of his queries, which conveyed a gross insult to the College and its office-bearers, and finally entered a protest against the admonition, reserving to himself the power of giving in his reasons at a future period.

This mode of proposing his queries was altogether irregular, and though perpetually boasting of the openness of his conduct, he has not scrupled to avow that it was adopted *for the express purpose of taking the College by surprise.*

A pretty sharp discussion now followed; and, in consequence of several allusions made by Dr Gregory to the subject of his Review and Censorian Letter, Dr Duncan senior observed, that the College had already given their opinion upon the misrepresentations and injurious insinuations contained in these publications, and had virtually decided that they were scandalous libels. Dr Gregory immediately said, that he did not understand him, or know to what he alluded. Dr Duncan then opened the Minute-book, and showed him the resolution passed on the 5th of February 1805. Dr Gregory looked over the resolution, and then declared publicly, *that he knew nothing of it*, or *never before had heard of it*, or words to that effect. This declaration, as might well be supposed, did not fail to excite much astonishment.

On the 26th November 1806, the College, after serious deliberation, and after Dr Gregory had refused to retract the offensive matter contained in his queries, found it necessary to pass a vote of censure upon him in the following terms:

" On this occasion the College find themselves called upon to declare, and they do accordingly resolve, that the imputations and accusations, which those queries seem to imply, are utterly groundless and unwarranted, and they are sorry that they must view the queries themselves as very disrespectful, if not a direct insult to the College.

" And they do farther resolve, that it is with much concern they have seen any Member take a step which they must deem so improper; and, however much the College are convinced that their dignity and character can suffer no degradation from the intemperate expressions of any individual Member, whether spoken within their courts or published abroad, they must nevertheless declare with the deepest regret, yet in the strongest terms of disapprobation, their sense of the indecorous and improper conduct of Dr Gregory on this occasion, and that it merits very severe censure from the College *."

Against this vote of censure he protested; and six months thereafter, at the quarterly meeting in May 1807, read to the Col-

* At the above meeting, viz. on the 26th November 1806, there were present, Dr Spens, President, Drs Monro, Duncan, Rutherford, Gregory, Wright, Home, Yule, Hamilton junior, Hope, Duncan junior, Monro junior, and Brown; all of whom, with the exception of Drs Gregory, Yule, and Brown, concurred in the above vote of censure.

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lege, under the name of Reasons of Protest, a very long paper, including a variety of topics foreign to the subject.

As this paper was expressed in terms as insulting and disrespectful as the queries themselves, the College, with the advice of eminent Counsel, resolved, on the 4th August 1807, that it should not be entered on their records.

SECT. III.

On the 2d of November 1807, Dr Gregory transmitted to the President a letter, consisting of no less than sixty-four quarto pages, in manuscript, which he requested might be communicated to the Council, and, if necessary, to the College at large. The professed object of it was, to explain his sentiments respecting the nature of protests, and the right of protesting, which he considered to be an essential preliminary to his reading, on the following day, his reasons of protest against the admonition.

In this letter he chose to advert to a variety of matters foreign to its professed purpose, principally to the late occurrences in the College, upon which he commented in his usual strain of violent invective. He dwelt particularly upon the resolution of 5th February 1805, in favour of the Committee, and demanded various explanations respecting it. He maintained, that the College had, by that resolution, declared him to be either "absolutely insane, or the most impudent liar, and the greatest knave in the country," —peremptorily requiring that the College should give him the satisfaction of knowing in which of these lights they considered him; and to account for his silence with respect to it, he thought fit to declare, in the broadest terms, and in the most positive manner, that he had remained perfectly ignorant of that resolution of the College, till Dr Duncan senior showed him the record of it in November 1806.

It is necessary to mention, that Dr Duncan had distributed to the Members of the College, in May 1807, a printed paper, being a memorial and queries, submitted by him *individually* to lawyers, respecting the conduct of Dr James Gregory, &c. In this paper, which reached the Members about six months after Dr Gregory's *viva voce* declaration of ignorance already mentioned, Dr Duncan says, "And so far were the sentiments of

the College, in general, different from those of Dr Gregory, that after his two publications appeared, they passed, at a full and regular meeting, an *unanimous resolution*, declaring that the President and Committee *had acted from the purest motives, and in the most honourable manner.* The vote was unanimously confirmed at a subsequent quarterly meeting, from which, as well as the former, Dr Gregory alone absented himself. But it can hardly be supposed, that he remained ignorant of what was done at these meetings; and it was his own fault only, if he did not know that the College had thus virtually declared all his accusations of the President and Committee to be false and groundless."

That part of Dr Gregory's Letter, in which he denies, in general, all knowledge of the resolution of February 1805, will be stated afterwards at full length; but the following is his solemn declaration and oath, in reference to the passage now quoted from Dr Duncan's Memorial.

" But he" (Dr Duncan) " is not welcome to say, or to insinuate, as he has done in that printed paper, that I knew of the College having passed that resolution or declaration of February 1805, virtually deciding, (as he calls it), that my Censorian Letter was a false and scandalous libel; implying, that I had shrunk from any enquiry into my conduct in that business; that I had not chosen, or had not dared, to vindicate what I had done, but had in a manner pleaded guilty, by allowing judgment to go against me by default in my absence: *for the direct contrary of all these insinuations and implications is the truth.*

" It is possible, however, that Dr Duncan senior may not be to blame, but only *bona fide* mistaken, when he said it could not be doubted that I knew of that proceeding.

" As to the fact, I must *repeat my solemn declaration and oath before God*, that I neither *knew* nor *suspected any thing* of it, nay, that I could not even *have thought it possible*, till the moment when Dr Duncan senior told me of it, and shewed me the record of it in our minute-book last November, just one year and nine months after the resolution had been passed."

It was impossible for Dr Gregory to have denied all knowledge of that resolution, in terms more strong or more explicit; and this deliberate and solemn repetition of the denial in writing, created still more astonishment than the *viva voce* declaration of ignorance

ignorance in November 1806 had done, and was received with much incredulity.

The College met on 24th November 1807, for the purpose of taking Dr Gregory's letter into consideration. In the course of the discussion with respect to the answer to be given to it, Dr Hope considered at great length, and commented with much freedom upon all those parts of Dr Gregory's conduct which were connected with the letter then before them. He said, he could not refrain from this discussion, because Dr Gregory had, in his letter, affirmed, that no attempt had been made explicitly to contradict any one important particular of what he had asserted in his Review and Censorian Letter, and had, in the most provoking manner, urged this as a proof, that none of his assertions could be disputed; because, too, in the same letter, while Dr Gregory took the most unlimited credit for the truth and accuracy of his own statements, many of which the College knew to be erroneous, he professed his utter disbelief of the solemn and repeated assurances of the President, Dr Stuart, with regard to the accidental origin of the admonition of August 1806; and further, because the forbearance, which both the College and individual Members had observed towards Dr Gregory, had only encouraged him to fresh aggressions *.

Dr Hope dwelt upon the great improbability, if not absolute impossibility, of Dr Gregory's having continued ignorant of the resolution of February 1805 for any length of time. He stated, that Dr Gregory had the most urgent reasons for being desirous of knowing what had passed at the meeting in February 1805; he had taken a keen interest relative to the report of the Committee; he had had recourse to the unprecedented step of a most intemperate publication, both in regard to the report and to the authors of it; he expected, as he avowed in the same letter, that "some strong measure was to be taken against him," at that meeting, and for *that very reason* staid away from it; he had the

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* It is proper to observe, that the College had hitherto interrupted every Member who, in the course of any of their discussions, had alluded to the Review and Censorian Letter, because these publications had never been regularly before the College, and it was anxiously wished, that all such discussions should be avoided. But as Dr Gregory in his Letter, then under consideration, had again pressed these papers, in the most insulting manner, upon the notice of the College, it would have been absurd and unjust to have continued this restraint any longer.

utmost facility of obtaining full information of what passed in it; and he was not, surely, deficient in curiosity, or remarkable for indifference of temper. The resolution also had been a matter of pretty general conversation; nay, it had been printed by those whom it chiefly concerned, and was distributed and shown to many persons, and to several of Dr Gregory's most intimate friends. Dr Hope, however, added, that the awful solemnity of Dr Gregory's written *declaration and oath before God*, had overcome the incredulity which these circumstances had created, and expressed his belief, notwithstanding these most strong and remarkable presumptions, that, some how or other, Dr Gregory had, as he professed, remained ignorant of the said resolution.

The observations of Dr Hope placed the improbability of Dr Gregory's broad and unqualified denial of *all* knowledge or suspicion of that resolution, in the strongest point of view. They were made in the presence of Dr Wright, who, it afterwards appeared, had informed Dr Gregory of that resolution; and they seem to have made Dr Gregory fully aware, that it was more prudent for him to confess *some* knowledge of the resolution of the College, than to persist in his solemn and broad denial of all knowledge, and all suspicion, that any such resolution had been passed.

The reply which Dr Gregory made to Dr Hope filled the College with surprise and astonishment. He admitted, *that he had received information from two of the Members, that the College had passed a resolution on the 5th February* 1805, *returning their thanks to the President and Committee for their trouble in revising the laws, and declaring that they had acted from the best or purest motives*, but denied that he had been informed, that the College had expressed their opinion, that the Committee had acted in an honourable manner.

This acknowledgment, so completely at variance with his solemn assertions, made in the most deliberate manner in writing, produced an exclamation of surprise and indignation from several of the Members, which they could not restrain. The violation of truth thus disclosed, did not refer to any minute or inconsiderable circumstance, which Dr Gregory might have forgotten, but to one which he had made personal to himself, and in which he had taken the warmest interest. His denial had been deliberate, solemn, and without any exceptions, leaving not the smallest room for subterfuge or casuistry.

A short discussion then followed; in the course of which Dr Gregory, by way of explaining the glaring inconsistency, asserted, that he had considered those parts of the resolution respecting thanks and motives, with which alone, he said, he was acquainted, as conveying a delicate censure on the President and Committee, and that the expression, *purest motives*, might mean, the *pure love* of gold, and insisted that, consequently, his knowledge did not extend to the spirit of the resolution. Some of the Members, on the contrary, maintained, that he must have known, if not the words, at least the spirit, of the whole resolution, as it would have been grossly inconsistent in the College, to have borne testimony to the perfect purity of the motives of the Committee, if their conduct had been immoral and unprincipled, as imputed to them by Dr Gregory. The discussion was closed by the College adopting the following short answer to Dr Gregory's letter of 64 pages, recommended by the Council.

"The President then stated, that the Council having read Dr Gregory's Letter, were unanimously of opinion, that its length and prolixity are such, that to enter into any minute consideration of it, would be altogether inconsistent with the time which the meetings of the College should occupy, and with the other engagements of its Members. They thought, therefore, that Dr Gregory should be desired in future to condense his arguments, and to avoid the diffuse illustrations, and the redundant expressions, with which his papers abound. Regarding the great object of the letter, it was the opinion of the Council, that the College have never disputed the right of any individual Member to protest against any act of the College of which he may disapprove; but, by the advice of counsel, the College have already exercised; and it is their opinion that they should continue to exercise, the right of refusing to record in their Minutes any Reasons of Protest, which to them shall appear disrespectful or improper.

To a great part of the matter which Dr Gregory has introduced, altogether irrelevant and foreign from the Admonition, against which he has declared his purpose to read reasons for his protest, it was the opinion of the Council, that it is not necessary for the College to return any answer. One member of the Council was altogether against adverting to this, as in no shape regularly before the College; but, as Dr Gregory had urged

ged them on the subject of their vote of February 5. 1805, in which they return thanks to the late President and Committee for revising the laws, for their great trouble in this business, and declare them to have acted *from the purest motives, and in the most honourable manner*, the rest of the Council present thought it right that the College should declare their adherence to that vote, and their regret that Dr Gregory should think himself brought into the dilemma so strongly stated towards the conclusion of his letter."

The violation of truth, of which it was evident Dr Gregory had been guilty, gave rise to much conversation among the Members who witnessed its detection.

Although it was clear, from the facts which he admitted, that his protestation of ignorance was a deliberate falsehood, there was some curiosity to know what information he had actually received from the two Members to whom he had alluded. Dr Gregory, however, gave no hint who these were. Dr James Hamilton senior was one of them; and the account which he gave of his communication to Dr Gregory on the subject was, that previous to the meeting of 5th February 1805 he waited on Dr Gregory, and informed him, " that a vote in support, or in favour of the Committee for revising the laws, was to be moved in the College that day, and that he meant to support it." This statement was repeatedly given *viva voce* to Dr Hope, with permission to use it in the College. Dr Hope committed it to writing, and showed it to Dr Hamilton, who, after altering one word, said it was correct, but declined subscribing it.

Dr Wright was the other Member alluded to. He had been present upon the 24th November, but he remained perfectly mute during the whole discussion.

On the 1st December 1807, Drs Stuart, Thomas Spens, and Hope waited on Dr Wright at his own house.

Dr Stuart asked Dr Wright, if he had not informed Dr Gregory of the resolutions of the College of the 5th February 1805.

Dr Wright " replied, that he had, and that he had told Dr Gregory, that the College had completely acquitted the Committee, and had declared that they had acted quite honourably."

It must be supposed, that Dr Wright had been pondering on the nature and extent of the information he had given Dr Gregory, in consequence of the previous striking occurrences in the College

College relative to that subject. These gentlemen, therefore, could have no reason to doubt that the satement he had made to them was correct. To prevent, however, all possibility of mistake on their part, they separately committed to writing the terms of Dr Wright's communication; and Drs Spens and Hope waited upon him again on the *forenoon of the 3d December*, and shewed him the above statement which they had written, requesting him, if he found it correct, to certify it. After having read it, he acknowledged its accuracy, but asked leave to take a copy of it before certifying it; and having copied it, he added to the original with his own hand, and with the utmost readiness, the following declaration.

" I declare that the above statement is, to the best of my recollection, correct. (Signed) WM WRIGHT."

The testimony of Dr Wright and of Dr Hamilton thus coinciding with Dr Gregory's admission, proved that Dr Gregory was possessed of information respecting the resolution, altogether inconsistent with his solemn declaration of total ignorance. Dr Wright's testimony went somewhat farther, as it tended to shew, that Dr Gregory had heard more than he, even at last, thought proper to admit. But though this might be an additional violation of truth, it could scarcely aggravate the falsehood, which was ascertained by his own admission *.

With evidence so decided, the Members of the College felt it an incumbent duty upon them, not to allow such conduct to pass without notice and censure; and this duty appeared still more urgent,

* Dr Gregory has been pleased to inveigh against Drs Spens and Hope (Defence, p. 379, &c.) for having made these inquiries of Drs Hamilton and Wright; and with no small degree of art and ingenuity, has represented this step as taking *ex parte* evidence, &c. The College cannot suppose that any one will adopt Dr Gregory's view of this matter. To them it appears in a very different light; they conceive that these gentlemen were called upon by every principle of justice, liberality, and candour, with respect to Dr Gregory, as well as of prudence in regard to themselves, to make every possible inquiry relative to the subject, before preferring a charge of so serious a nature. With regard to their having committed to writing what passed between them and Dr Wright, and afterwards submitting it to him for his correction and certification, before making use of it, instead of being censurable, the College consider this procedure as having been not only commendable, but highly proper and necessary. How much more honourable is it than the opposite plan pursued by Dr Gregory, of taking notes of private and confidential conversations, and publishing these in his pamphlets, without giving the individuals concerned any opportunity of correcting their inaccuracy?

gent, when they considered,—that Dr Gregory had preferred groundless charges to calumniate several of his Brethren;—that to add weight to these charges, he had staked his fame and fortune upon his own veracity, and upon the truth of his assertions, and had continually boasted of the uprightness, candour, and liberality of his own conduct;—that he had insinuated, that none of his assertions or reasonings could be contradicted, because the College had hitherto forborn to notice them;—that he had repeatedly declared war, and open war, against the College, and was in the press, to commence the attack, at the very time when he uttered the falsehood in question;—that the part of his letter which contained this falsehood, was written avowedly to procure materials for his publication;—and finally, that the forbearance of the College, in regard to his former deviations from truth, had only, as it seemed, emboldened him to repeat his insults.

As the detection was the immediate consequence of the observations made upon Dr Gregory's letter by Dr Hope, the duty of bringing this business forward naturally devolved upon him.

Accordingly, after having made various fruitless attempts to interest several most respectable persons among Dr Gregory's friends to co-operate with him, in preventing the necessity of a public disclosure of this degrading offence, Dr Hope laid a series of resolutions before the Council on the 4th, and before the College on the 5th December 1807, both meetings having been called expressly for the purpose.

While the President was taking the chair, on the 5th, Dr Wright, without assigning any reason whatever for the request, or without giving the smallest hint, that he meant to retract his testimony, abruptly asked Dr Hope to give him back the paper which he had signed on the 3d. This Dr Hope declined, as it had been tabled at the meeting of the Council the preceding day, and as it was included in the resolutions, to receive which the meeting of the College was then convened.

The resolutions moved by Dr Hope were of so serious a nature, and so important in their consequences, that nothing but the most weighty considerations could have induced the College to receive and discuss them. The 19th of December (1807) was appointed for this latter purpose, that Dr Gregory might have sufficient time to prepare his defence.

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On that day, after Dr Hope had laid the resolutions before the College, with the evidence in support of them, Dr Wright read a paper, in which he disavowed the declaration which he himself had certified as correct on the *forenoon* of the 3d, alleging that he had discovered certain manuscript-notes on the *morning of the same day*, which convinced him that that declaration was inaccurate, and asserting, that he now knew positively he had merely told Dr Gregory, " that a motion had been made in the College agreeable to the recommendation of the Council, which, after much discussion, had been agreed to; and that the College had ordered the Vice-President (Dr Wright himself) to render their thanks, first to Dr Spens, and then to his Committee, for the revisal of the laws; and that they were convinced they had acted from the purest motives." " Here I stopt," (adds Dr Wright); " more than this, I did not report to Dr Gregory of the proceedings of the Royal College of Physicians on that day, nor upon any other occasion whatsoever."

Having read this paper, he refused to deliver it to the College—but he has since given it to Dr Gregory, who has published it among his Relative Documents.

Dr Gregory then stated, that before entering on his defence, he wished to put some questions to Dr Wright, to Dr Hamilton senior, and to some other Members of the College; and he produced a bundle of papers, from which he accordingly read interrogatories, which he had previously written, and now put to Dr Wright. Most of the questions might be called very detailed leading ones, and some of them were very intricate and abstruse. They seemed to be put with the intention, not of obtaining from Dr Wright information respecting facts, but to get him to express publicly an opinion approving of the Censorian Letter and Review. In general they were answered by Dr Wright by a simple affirmative or negative.

As the statements given by Dr Wright in his written speech, and in his replies to some of Dr Gregory's questions, differed materially from matter of fact, and from that statement which he had formerly certified as correct, he was cross questioned, as was unavoidably necessary, by several of the Members; and on reading the minutes of that examination, it must appear, that his answers neither agreed with his own written speech, nor with the answers he gave to Dr Gregory.

As a detailed account of the inconsistencies of Dr Wright is contained in the Appendix, N° I. it is unnecessary to mention in this place all the circumstances which induced most of the Members to regard this partial departure from his previous testimony, and this accommodation of it to the terms of Dr Gregory's admission, in a very suspicious point of view. It is sufficient to state, that the account which he then gave of his conversation with Drs Stuart, Spens, and Hope, was contradictory to the one which he had certified as correct, two days after it had taken place; that he asserted, that he found the manuscript notes on the morning of the 3d of December, *immediately* after breakfast, though in fact it was not till near the middle of that very day that he had certified the statement he gave to Drs Spens and Hope; that he acknowledged, that he was not in the habit of keeping notes of his conversations about the affairs of the College; that he refused to show the notes to any one, or even to preserve them in existence; and that, after having declared that he had a perfect recollection of what was contained in the Censorian Letter, he affirmed, that Dr Gregory *had not in that work blamed the motives of the Committee for the revisal of the laws.*

But this new testimony, even though it had been unquestionable, could not in any manner have exculpated Dr Gregory in the essential point of the falsehood imputed to him, because it still left his unqualified denial of *all* knowledge of the resolution of 5th February 1805 absolutely inconsistent with truth.

When the examination of Dr Wright was concluded, Dr Gregory was called upon to make his defence. It was to have been expected, that as the charge against him was specific and pointed, his defence would have been ready and explicit. Dr Gregory, however, declined making any *viva voce* defence, and said he would yet require several weeks to prepare it, and that he intended to deliver it in print. Some discussion then took place respecting the length of time, in addition to the fortnight already elapsed, which would be sufficient for preparing a defence against a charge lying in so narrow a compass. The time demanded by Dr Gregory seemed to many of the Members much longer than necessary, and, connected with his conduct that day and on some recent occasions, had the appearance of a stratagem both to gain time and opportunity of giving vent to his abuse against the College. Upon this being suggested, Dr Gregory behaved in the most outrageous manner, while the conduct of Dr Hope,

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against whom his violent and ungentleman-like language was directed, merited the full approbation of the College.

Subsequent events, it may be here observed, have fully justified the suspicions which then arose.

This discussion terminated, by the College agreeing to allow Dr Gregory the whole time he asked to prepare his Defence, which he then engaged should be ready before the next quarterly meeting in February 1808.

Dr Gregory however by no means fulfilled this engagement; for upon that and several subsequent meetings he transmitted portions only of a printed paper, entitled, Dr Gregory's Defence; and it was not till after many and repeated delays, continued during seven months, that he, on the 2d of August, gave in the whole of what he stiles his Defence, against this charge of falsehood, under the form of a 4to volume of 494 pages, exclusive of a volume of 180 pages, entitled, Relative Documents. On that day the College fixed the 13th of September for taking the Resolutions and Defence into consideration. Dr Hope and some other Members then requested that Dr Gregory's friends would communicate to him their most earnest wish that he should give his personal attendance on that occasion. Dr Gregory however absented himself from the meeting; but a few days before it took place, he enriched his Defence with a Postscript of 16 pages, and made considerable additions to his Relative Documents.

Before the meeting of the 13th September, the Members of the College perused with great attention the volume presented by Dr Gregory. This however proved to be a task requiring no small labour and patience, not so much on account of the extraordinary length of the volume, as from its being in a great measure made up of irrelevant and incoherent matter, calculated to obscure and to disguise, not to elucidate the real point at issue.

The following extract from the Minutes of the College will shew the nature of the charge brought against Dr Gregory, and, at the same time, the proceedings of the College at the extraordinary meeting held for the purpose of deciding upon it.

"On the 13th of September Dr Hope was first heard in support of the Resolutions submitted by him and Dr Spens to the College. He then read, and lodged with the clerk, an amendment, which it became necessary to make upon these Resolutions, in conse-

quence of Dr Wright having departed from the declaration signed by him.

The original Resolutions moved on the 5th December 1807 were in the following words.

'Dr Hope moved, That the Royal College of Physicians should declare and resolve as follows:

1*st*, That at a Quarterly Meeting of the College, on the 5th of February 1805, when every Member on the roll, except Dr Gregory, was present, the following Resolutions, transmitted from the Council, were passed.

'The College, taking into consideration the concern which the President has had in the late revisal of the Laws, and the great trouble and attention he has bestowed on it, are of opinion, however different the sentiments of the different Members may be on that subject, that he has acted from the purest motives and in the most honourable manner, and that he well deserves the thanks of the College, which they request the Vice President to give him; and they appoint this Resolution to be engrossed in the Minutes.

"The Clerk having then called the roll, the whole Members approved of the motion of the Council, with the exception of one Member, who objected merely to the form of the motion, but who agreed with all the other Members, that the President had acted in an honourable manner.

"Thereafter, a motion respecting the Committee for revising the Laws, the same with the preceding, *mutatis mutandis*, was read, put to the vote, and carried in the same manner." And the same were regularly sanctioned, when the minutes were read at the subsequent meeting of the College in May.

2*d*, That Dr Gregory, in a letter addressed to the President, dated November 2. 1807, referring to a meeting of the College in August 1806, from which he had been absent, uses the following words: "I absented myself from that meeting purposely, and went about my ordinary business at the time of it, *because I confidently expected that some very strong measure, with respect to me, was to be proposed in the College:* and I thought it more delicate, towards my Brethren, to leave them at full liberty to express, without reserve, their sentiments, and take their resolution with respect to me, than to lay them under any restraint by being present at their meeting; and also more prudent, with respect to myself,

self, to avoid, than to engage in, an unavailing debate, or perhaps an angry and disgraceful altercation.

" *On that occasion, I acted exactly in the same manner, and from the same liberal and honourable motives, that I had acted from on a similar occasion, at the quarterly meeting of the College in February* 1805."

3*d*, That Dr Gregory, in the same letter, uses the following language, in regard to his ignorance of their proceedings on the said 5th February 1805.

" From this detail of the nature, and tendency, and purpose, of my reasons of dissent, you may easily perceive that they involve some plain considerations of reason, or rather of common sense, about which I can hardly conceive that my Brethren and I should differ, even for a quarter of an hour. They are at least totally different from, and independent of, those principles of moral conduct about which we differ totally, and, I much fear, irreconcileably. This strange difference of opinion, with respect to the principles of moral conduct, I discovered *only about a year ago*, and *that*, as you know, by mere accident; for though it had been strongly expressed, by my Brethren, in an unanimous resolution, in my absence, at their meeting in February 1805, and had even been recorded in our minute-book, nay had been printed and distributed very freely, for a year and a half, it somehow happened that I had not *the least intimation of it*, till our meeting in November last. From this I infer that neither the Royal College at large, nor any individual Member of it, not even yourself, who, if I am rightly informed, first proposed that declaration of your moral sentiments, wished me to know it, or to make it a subject of discussion: for if you had wished this, you would certainly have informed me of it without delay.

" *The first intimation* that I had of it was, by Dr Duncan senior declaring, vehemently, after hearing me read my queries, that the College must assert its own dignity; that it had shown too great lenity to great offenders (or offences), that my printed paper was a scandalous libel, and that the College had already decided that point. This he repeated; and on my telling him, repeatedly, that I did not understand him, *or know to what he alluded*, he turned up the minute-book, and shewed me the record of the proceedings of the College in February 1805. As that discovery of it was evidently accidental, and as the proceeding of the Royal College was most deliberate, I judge that it was not intended, by my Brethren, that

that I should ever know of our great difference about morals; which I must own was the most likely way to prevent any disputing about them. I judge also that their deliberate proceeding, on that occasion, was strictly consonant with their principles of moral conduct: But I must take the liberty to say, that it was altogether repugnant to mine; which, as my Brethren well knew, were explicitly stated in my Censorian Letter.

" As their sentiments of moral right and wrong were so different from mine, that they all thought those proceedings most honourable which I thought just the contrary, they must have thought mine completely erroneous, and probably dangerous or pernicious in their consequences. They could not surely distrust my sincerity in the sentiments which I professed, and the assertions, with respect to many plain matters of fact, which I had stated. But if they had thought so unfavourably and unjustly of me, they ought to have proceeded against me as a criminal; and no doubt they would have done so, for their own sakes individually, as well as for the honour and interest of the Royal College.

" If they believed me sincere in what I had professed, but miserably mistaken in my notions and principles of moral conduct, it would have been rational and highly proper, nay it would have been a humane and Christian duty, on their part, to have endeavoured to instruct me, and set me right, or at least to have admonished me of the nature and danger of my errors; provided always, and supposing, that they thought me not absolutely insane, but capable of being reasoned with.

" But if they thought me absolutely insane, incapable of instruction, and unfit to be reasoned with, and were themselves sincere in those sentiments, so different from mine, which they professed, then, certainly, they ought to have taken measures to get me confined, and treated, as a lunatic.

" If now, on hearing my reasons of protest, they shall differ from me with respect to the principles of reasoning and common sense, as much as, on reading my Censorian Letter, they did with respect to morals, they cannot hesitate what to do with me.

" You know, Sir, that more than three months ago Dr Duncan senior distributed among us a printed paper, purporting to be a Memorial and Queries submitted by him to counsel, including a query about the expelling of me from this College for having divulged their secrets; and containing in his own hand writing a very

very strong hint or intimation that probably he would make a motion to that purpose. He is heartily welcome to try the experiment whenever he pleases.

" *But he is not welcome to say, or to insinuate, as he has done in that printed paper, that I knew of the College having passed that resolution, or declaration, of February* 1805, *virtually deciding*, (*as he calls it*), *that my Censorian Letter was a false and scandalous libel*; implying that I had shrunk from any inquiry into my conduct in that business; that I had not chosen, or had not dared, to vindicate what I had done; but had in a manner pleaded guilty, by allowing judgment to go against me, by default, in my absence: *for the direct contrary of all these insinuations and implications is the truth.*

" It is possible however that Dr Duncan senior may not be to blame; but only *bona fide* mistaken, when he said it could not be doubted that I knew of that proceeding.

" *As to the fact, I must repeat my solemn declaration, and oath before God, that I neither knew nor suspected any thing of it, nay, that I could not even have thought it possible*, till the moment when Dr Duncan senior told me of it, and shewed me the record of it in our minute-book last November, just one year and nine months after the resolution had been passed. But measures, which I never heard of, yet well known to Dr Duncan, may have been taken to inform me of it, even from the first; and these measures may have been frustrated by circumstances, of which I have no knowledge or suspicion. His words seem to imply some such meaning: and the fact ought to be ascertained, for his vindication and credit. If the College, as a body, expressed any wish, or gave any order, to inform me of it; if any individual Member of our College expressed such a wish, or undertook to give me such intimation; *if any individual of our College, or not of it, says he gave me such intimation*, or says he ever heard me express any knowledge or suspicion of such a proceeding, before it was announced to me by Dr Duncan in that strange manner, of which you were a witness, at our meeting in November last, I wish it to be declared explicitly, and publicly: for, in case of need, I have a very different tale to tell, and to establish, as far as a negative proposition can be established, by very competent evidence."

4*th*, That on the 24th November 1807, the College met for the purpose of considering that letter from Dr Gregory, and when Dr Hope,,

Hope, in the course of delivering his opinion respecting that letter, and respecting various parts also of Dr Gregory's conduct towards the College, himself, and other Members, did strongly represent the improbability of the ignorance, which Dr Gregory professed, of *the proceeding* of the College in February 1805; and the little reason the College, or its Members, had to believe, that he could have continued ignorant of it, or could have entertained no suspicion of it, for one year and nine months; and added, that in spite of all such improbability, *he did, in consequence of Dr Gregory's solemn declaration and oath before God, express his belief, that Dr Gregory was really ignorant of that proceeding; Dr Gregory did, in spite of that solemn oath, having been much pressed upon the subject, acknowledge and confess, that he had received information from two of the Members, that the College had, on the said 5th February, come to a resolution, returning their thanks to the President and Committee for their trouble in revising the laws, and declaring that they had acted from the purest motives; but denied his being informed that the College had expressed their opinion, that the Committee had acted in an honourable manner;* and that Dr Gregory did publicly repeat this acknowledgment more than once, at the desire of some Members of the College, and did afterwards acquiesce in it, when repeated as above by Dr Hope in the same meeting; and did express his intention to send the same in writing to Dr Hope the next day, which he did not do, and has not since done.

5th, That Dr James Hamilton senior, one of the Fellows, has declared, that on the morning of the 5th February 1805, he had informed Dr Gregory, that a vote in support, or in favour of the Committee for revising the laws, was to be moved in the College that day, and that he meant to support it; and that Dr Wright, another of the Fellows, has declared, that he had informed Dr Gregory of the said resolutions, and that the College had completely acquitted the Committee, and had declared that they had acted quite honourably.

6th, That the College taking into consideration the foregoing statement by Dr Gregory, of the reason of his absence from the meeting of 5th February 1805; the solemn declaration and oath before God of his ignorance of *that proceeding*, and of his having no suspicion of it; the subsequent acknowledgment or confession of Dr Gregory, so inconsistent with that declaration; and the testimony of Dr Hamilton, and of Dr Wright, contradictory both

of

of that oath and declaration, and of the avowal which Dr Gregory made on the said 24th November—Do, in respect that these statements were deliberately made within their own walls, or in writings addressed officially to their President, and in the course of discussion relating to the private business of the College, feel themselves called upon to declare, that they consider such violation of truth, on the part of Dr Gregory, to be highly immoral, and deserving the reprobation of the College; and they do accordingly express their reprobation of the same, along with their regret and mortification, that any one of their body should have acted so as to call forth an animadversion and censure of this nature.'

The resolutions moved on the 13th September 1808, with the amendment as lodged with the clerk on that day, were the same as the preceding, as far as the 5th resolution. The amendments were,

5th, That Dr James Hamilton senior, one of the Fellows, has declared, that on the morning of the 5th February 1805, he had informed Dr Gregory, that a vote in support, or in favour of the Committee for revising the Laws, was to be moved that day in the College, and that he meant to support it.

6th, That Dr Wright, another of the Fellows, declared to Dr Stuart, the President, Dr Spens, and Dr Hope, on the 1st of December 1807, that he had told Dr Gregory, that the College had, on the 5th of February 1805, completely acquitted the Committee, and had declared that they had acted quite honourably: That Dr Wright, on the 3d of December, in presence of Dr Spens and Dr Hope, did subscribe, and certify as correct, a copy of the said declaration, which is now lodged with the clerk *: That Dr Wright,

* *The Statement and Declaration are in the following terms:*

"On the 1st of December 1807, Drs Stuart, Thomas Spens, and Hope, waited upon Dr Wright at his own house.

"Dr Stuart asked Dr Wright, if he had not informed Dr Gregory of the resolutions of the College of the 5th of February 1805?

"Dr Wright replied, that he had; and that he had told Dr Gregory, that the College had completely acquitted the Committee, and had declared that they had acted quite honourably."

"*I declare, that the above statement is, to the best of my recollection, correct.*

(Signed) "WILL^M WRIGHT."

Dec. 3. 1807.

on the 19th of December last, declared to the College, that after he had signed the above statement on the 3d December, he had found notes of the communication he had made to Dr Gregory on the 4th and 5th of February 1805, from which he discovered, that he had informed Dr Gregory, that the College had voted their thanks to the Committee for their trouble in revising the laws, and had declared their conviction that they had acted from the purest motives; but that he had not informed Dr Gregory of any thing more: That Dr Wright, when questioned by the President, at the meeting of the College on the 19th December last, declared, that the said notes were not legible by any person but himself,—refused to produce them,—and declined engaging to preserve them in existence.

7th, That the College, taking into consideration the foregoing statement of Dr Gregory, of the reason of his absence from the meeting of the 5th of February 1805,—the solemn declaration and oath before God of his ignorance of "that proceeding," and of his having no suspicion of it,—the subsequent acknowledgment or confession of Dr Gregory, so inconsistent with that declaration and oath,—and the testimony of Dr Hamilton and the different statements of Dr Wright, all perfectly contradictory of that solemn declaration and oath,—Do, in respect that these statements by Dr Gregory were deliberately made within their own walls, or in writings addressed officially to their President, and in the course of discussion relating to the private business of the College, feel themselves called upon to declare, that they consider such violation of truth on the part of Dr Gregory, to be highly immoral, and deserving the reprobation of the College; and they do accordingly express their reprobation of the same, along with their regret and mortification, that any one of their body should have acted so as to call forth an animadversion and censure of this nature.

"The College then deliberated maturely upon these resolutions, each Member delivering his opinion in the order of seniority, and in general at considerable length.

Dr Barclay, though he held many of the arguments in the defence as unsatisfactory and futile, did not however think it competent to enter into the question whether the charges were proved or not.

All

All the other Members, with the exception of Drs Wright, Yule, and Brown, who regarded the charges as wholly unfounded, concurred in the sentiments expressed in the resolutions, and in the opinion, that the Defence presented by Dr Gregory was altogether unsatisfactory.

Dr Hope was again heard in reply. The vote was then put, " Adopt the resolutions moved by Dr Hope, or not?" when it was carried, seven to three, Adopt; Dr Barclay declining to vote, having some doubts respecting the propriety of taking the resolutions into consideration, and of the right of the College to decide upon them.

Dr Wright, Dr Yule, and Dr Brown, protested in the clerk's hands against the adoption of the resolutions, and desired it to be marked in the minutes.

Dr Hope then stated, that as the College had resolved to pass a vote of censure upon Dr James Gregory, on account of a deliberate violation of truth, in a solemn declaration and oath before God, committed within their walls, and in the course of the business of the College, it appeared to him highly right and proper, that the College should insert in their records a statement of the grounds upon which they founded their decision, in order that their successors in the College may see, that they have not passed a vote of so serious a nature, respecting one of their Members, without having the most clear, certain, and complete evidence of the delinquency.

The College approved of this measure, and thereupon Dr Hope submitted to them a draught of such a deliverance, as he thought the College should insert in their records.

This draught was approved of by the College, and was lodged with the clerk. The same has since then been carefully revised by the President and Council, and the tenor of it is as follows:

" The College have considered very maturely the subject of the resolutions, as moved by Dr Hope on the 5th of December 1807, and as altered, in consequence of Dr Wright having given a different testimony to the College on the 19th from what he had given to the President, Dr Spens, and Dr Hope, on the 1st, and signed on the 3d, all of the same month.

The College have also considered attentively the printed Defence of Dr Gregory, and have maturely deliberated upon the whole of this serious and momentous business.

It appears to the College,

1*st*, That Dr Gregory, in his letter addressed to the President on the 2d of November 1807, as quoted in the third resolution moved by Dr Hope, does, in the most general, broad, and comprehensive terms, aver, that he knew nothing of the resolution or declaration of the College of the 5th February 1805, implying, as Dr Gregory alleges, in various parts of it, a difference of opinion between the College and himself respecting the principles of moral conduct, moral sentiments, morals, sentiments of moral right and wrong, until the record of it was shewn to him in November 1806, one year and nine months after it was passed.

2*dly*, That Dr Gregory has, in the said letter, asserted in a solemn declaration and oath before God, that he had no knowledge or suspicion of what Dr Duncan senior, in a printed paper distributed to the Members of the College in May 1807, has represented as a virtual decision of the College against him, Dr Gregory; which virtual decision Dr Duncan describes, as consisting in an unanimous resolution of the College on the 5th of February 1805, declaring, that the President and Committee had acted from the purest motives, and in the most honourable manner; nay, that he, Dr Gregory, could not even have thought it possible, till the record of it was shewn him, a year and nine months after the resolution had been passed.

But it appears to the College,

3*dly*, That Dr Gregory has, in his letter already referred to, and as quoted in the second resolution moved by Dr Hope, stated as a reason for purposely absenting himself from the meeting of the 5th of February 1805, that he confidently expected some very strong measure with respect to himself was to be proposed in the College, and that he thought it more delicate towards his Brethren, to leave them at full liberty to express their sentiments, and to take their resolution with respect to him, than to lay them under any restraint by being present, and also more prudent with regard to himself, to avoid than to engage in an unavailing debate, or perhaps an angry and disgraceful altercation.

4*thly*, That Dr James Hamilton senior had, previously to the said meeting of the 5th of February, informed Dr Gregory, that a vote was that day to be proposed in the College, in favour or in support of the Committee for revising the laws, and that he, Dr Hamilton, meant to support it.

5*thly*,

5thly, That Dr Gregory did, on the 24th of November 1807, as stated in the fourth resolution moved by Dr Hope, acknowledge and admit, that he had received information from two of the Members, that the College had, on the said 5th of February, come to a resolution, returning their thanks to the President and Committee for their trouble in revising the laws, and declaring that they had acted from the purest motives; which admission has since been corroborated by the testimony of Dr Wright.

6thly, That the grounds on which Dr Gregory has, in his Defence, attempted to confine his denial of knowledge to one part of the said resolution of the 5th of February, and to reconcile the inconsistency between his declaration upon oath, and the matter of fact in regard to the information which he had received, are altogether unsatisfactory.

In his Defence, he maintains, that his denial could rationally be applied only to such part of the said resolution of 5th February 1805, as implied a difference of opinion between him and the College respecting the principles of moral conduct, or imported a contradiction of what he had asserted in his printed papers; that the only part of the said resolution which implied such difference or contradiction, was that clause, declaring that the President and Committee had acted in the most honourable manner; and that the clause relative to their motives did not imply any such difference or contradiction, as he had never disputed the motives of the Committee being good, but, if present at the meeting, should have most cheerfully concurred in the declaration, that the Committee had acted from the purest or best motives, adding, that this was, *bona fide*, his opinion.

But the College must observe, that Dr Gregory's assertion, that he had never disputed the purity of the motives of the Committee, is notoriously contrary to truth; as Dr Gregory, in his printed papers, did, at great length, labour to calumniate the Committee, and degrade them in the opinion of the public, by representing them as having been actuated by motives and considerations, to which he applied the reproachful epithets of *selfish*, *sordid*, *unworthy*, *illiberal*, *mean*, *base*, *odious*, and *disgusting*.

That Dr Gregory's solemn oath and declaration refer directly and immediately to the resolution of 5th February, as described by Dr Duncan senior, without any explanation, that they were intended to apply to one part of that resolution only, and not to the

the other; and there is not a single expression in the course of Dr Gregory's very long letter, from which such an inference could be drawn. And they must farther remark, that as the declaration of the College respecting the motives of the Committee, was a direct contradiction of many assertions made by Dr Gregory in his printed papers; as it implied as wide a difference, between him and the College, respecting the principles of moral conduct, and as it was as much a virtual decision against him, as the other clause, respecting the honourable conduct of the Committee, it was, even according to Dr Gregory's own principles, included in his denial of knowledge, which must therefore be considered as extending to *both* parts of the resolution of the 5th February 1805.

7thly, From all these considerations, it appears to the College that Dr Gregory's Defence is completely unsatisfactory; that the information which Dr Gregory received from Dr Hamilton, respecting what was to be done at the meeting of 5th February, the reasons which Dr Gregory has stated for his absence from that meeting, and the knowledge which he admits that he possessed respecting that resolution, as well as those parts of it called by Dr Duncan senior the virtual decision, are completely inconsistent with, and contradictory of, his broad and comprehensive denial of knowledge, and his solemn declaration and oath above referred to, and that Dr Gregory has of course been guilty of a direct and deliberate violation of truth.

The College have therefore adopted the whole of the Resolutions moved by Dr Hope, altered as above mentioned, and feel themselves called upon to declare, that they consider such conduct, on the part of Dr Gregory, to be highly immoral, and deserving the reprobation of the College; and they do accordingly express their reprobation of the same, along with their regret and mortification, that any one of their body should have acted so as to call forth an animadversion and censure of this nature.

The College also adopt the recommendation of the Council, and do hereby express their strongest disapprobation of the manner in which Dr Gregory has endeavoured in his Defence to obscure the subject, by involving it in an immense mass of irrelevant matter; of the numerous misrepresentations of various facts and circumstances well known to the Members individually, of the unfounded insinuations and calumnies contained in that Defence, and of the coarse, rude, and even sometimes grossly indecent language in which it is written.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

The preceding Minute affords ample proof of the attention bestowed by the College upon the investigation of this charge against Dr Gregory. Every indulgence with regard to time for preparing his Defence had been allowed him, and every circumstance which could be urged in his favour was patiently listened to. When it is known, that nearly twelve hours were occupied in the discussion of the subject on the 13th of September; that each Member who voted for the Resolutions gave a detailed statement of the reasons for his particular vote, and that they were all aware that a vote of censure for a deliberate violation of truth, in a solemn declaration and oath before God, upon a person in Dr Gregory's public situation, and who had impressed the world with a high opinion of his veracity and his integrity, must be received by the public with a very considerable degree of surprise, it cannot be doubted that every one of them felt convinced, that not only the honour and dignity of the College, but also his own individual character, were implicated in the justice of the decision.

The inducement Dr Gregory had to commit so gross a violation of truth was not at first very obvious; but the proof of the fact being clear, and totally independent of all circumstantial evidence, it seemed unnecessary to enquire into his motives. As, however, Dr Gregory has called upon the College to assign some motive for such an offence, they may observe, that he himself has furnished a key, which seems to fit pretty exactly.

He maintains, both in his long Letter and in his Defence, that the College, by their resolution of February 1805 in favour of the Committee, pronounced him to be either the greatest knave and the most impudent liar in the country, or absolutely insane; and as his Brethren had not got him secured in a strait waistcoat, he is disposed to give the preference to the former of these interpretations. In his Defence he asserts, that if he had known of the resolution, and had remained silent respecting it, it must have been considered, either as an acknowledgment that he was a knave and a liar, or as a proof that he was guilty of base and contemptible pusillanimity, unexampled in the history of the human mind. In order therefore to avert these very disagreeable and degrading

degrading constructions which he conceived might be put on his silence, it seems not unlikely to suppose that he found it necessary to account for that silence by solemnly denying that he had ever heard of the resolution.

If it be objected to this explanation, that no other than a man callous to all sense of shame could hazard a falsehood admitting so readily of detection, the College might refer to the preceding part of this Narrative for evidence, that Dr Gregory had disregarded all considerations of this kind; but he has rendered this reference unnecessary, for even in his Defence he has indulged in a variety of falsehoods, fully as gross as that for which he has been thus censured, and which are of still more easy detection.

Dr Gregory no doubt makes strong, and frequent, and violent professions of regard to truth and candour, and every moral virtue. But an examination of his late publications has confirmed the College in the opinion, that the prejudices and the passions of the man, have often proved too strong for the precepts of the philosopher and the moralist; in proof of which, they shall here give some further examples of the wide difference there is in this respect between the *Theory* and *Practice* of Dr Gregory.

Of his more recent violations of truth, the most prominent is his positive and solemn denial of having, in the Censorian Letter, in any degree blamed the *motives* which had led the Committee for the revisal of the Laws to propose the alteration of the By-law of 1754. This denial is not expressed in doubtful language, nor in terms which can admit of being explained or frittered away. It is repeated in various forms, and seems to be urged with extraordinary earnestness. Thus, he says, Defence, p. 25. "According to the declaration of the College, 5th February 1805, not only the motives of the Committee, or the end which they had in view, were good, which I believe no body ever disputed, and which, I am sure, that *I at least never did dispute*," &c.——"They could not relate to the declaration of the College, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted from the best (or purest) motives; *for I had never said or thought otherwise;* and if I had been present at that Meeting of the College, I should have concurred in it most cheerfully," &c. *Ibid.* p. 101.——"I am sure, that with respect to myself, the difference of the import of the two articles of the virtual decision is so great, that only the latter can be understood as *any contradiction of what I had said* of the Committee and their proceedings,

proceedings; as any condemnation of my conduct, or as deciding that my printed papers were a false and scandalous libel. I am sure that I should *most cheerfully have concurred* in the declaration, that the Committee *had acted from the best (or purest) motives*, for this was *bona fide* my opinion; which opinion I remember distinctly to have expressed to two of my Brethren, who separately informed me (4th and 5th February 1805) of that article of the declaration of the Royal College. I have never changed, nor do I think I ever can change that opinion, being convinced that the motives of the Committee were pure and good; though I thought then, and still think, that there were other motives, of much higher authority, according to which they ought to have acted." Ibid. p. 174.

Now let the Censorian Letter bear witness, whether he has not declaimed most vehemently against *the motives* of the Committee.

" If it shall appear that all these things are said and done, without even the *pretence of any honourable motive* or liberal purpose, without the most distant view to the honour of our profession, the improvement of our Science, or the good of mankind, but purely in hopes of promoting the pecuniary interest of some of our own number;—What must be thought of us? Is it possible for human genius to contrive an expedient that shall more surely and effectually degrade us all?" Cens. Lett. p. 19. and 20.

" But when it is proposed to rescind such a law, notoriously and avowedly to serve the *private* and *pecuniary interest* of a few individuals, the successors of those who, for the most honourable and public spirited purposes, had enacted that law, the measure must be thought not only *absurd* and *unjust*, but *illiberal* and *disgraceful*. It is still worse, when those who think the law unfavourable to their pecuniary interest, and yet dare not propose *openly to repeal* it, endeavour to *evade* it, or *explain it away*. There is in this case a twofold *meanness* or *turpitude*; first, in *the end proposed*; secondly, in the means employed to accomplish that end. Our law of 1754 was not enacted to promote the pecuniary interest of the Fellows and Licentiates of our College, but for a totally *different*, and, in one respect, almost an *opposite* purpose,—to prevent our Licentiates, as our Fellows had previously been prevented, from promoting their own pecuniary interest, by means inconsistent with the *honour* of *our profession*, the *estimation* of our *individual*

Members, the *advancement* of our *Science*, and the *good of mankind*. And now it is seriously proposed, to disregard all those honourable considerations,—to evade, or explain away, that is in fact to repeal that law,—and to permit and authorise our Members to consult, as they best can, their own pecuniary interest, even by those unworthy means, which their predecessors had most strongly reprobated." Ibid. p. 14. and 15.

" I shrewdly suspect also, that some of our younger Brethren, who are the keenest in this business, have committed one or two other oversights, from which a little more experience and knowledge of the world might have preserved them. They certainly must all know, for it is an old observation of the wisest of men, that " he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent;" but probably they are not all aware, that he that maketh most haste to be rich, does not always become rich the soonest. Few, few, have risen, and many have sunk, never to rise again, in public esteem, by *too great* and *too early* attention to their own pecuniary interest, and by indulging, even in youth, the *sordid selfish passions* of unhonoured age. This, *odious* as it must be in every profession, is peculiarly *disgusting* in ours, in which the private interest of the practitioner is totally different and distinct from that of mankind, and may too easily be set in opposition to it, in a manner not fit to be named." Ibid. p. 36. and 37.

" I wish and hope to see the question decided by our College, *purely* on the most *liberal* and *honourable principles*; and my intention in stating and discussing so minutely the *illiberal consideration* of pecuniary interest, was only to withdraw that veil, or dispel that mist, which alone, as I had reason to believe, prevented some of my Brethren from perceiving the nature and force of those honourable considerations which ought to determine their judgment and regulate their conduct. All of us are men, subject to the common passions and infirmities of human nature, of which the *auri sacra fames* is one of the *greatest*, and *worst*, and most common. It is too often " the beam in our own eye, which we do not see," but which does not prevent us from seeing, and " trying to pluck out the mote that is in our neighbour's."

" If I have done injustice to any of my Brethren by this surmise, it was not intended, and I am heartily sorry for it; but I trust they will forgive me, or at least, if I am mistaken, that they will have the goodness to set me right, when I solemnly declare, that

that it was *impossible* for me, after all the enquiries that I could make, and all the attention I could bestow on the subject, to form a different opinion or even conjecture," Ibid. p. 39. & 40.

Other passages of a similar tendency might be quoted, but the above sufficiently show the sentiments he has expressed on this subject.

As Dr Gregory must have been fully aware that *his strong reprobation of the motives* of the Committee could not fail to be well known, not only to his Brethren, but also to every one who had even glanced at his Censorian Letter, he must have foreseen, that so remarkable a falsehood, as that contained in his asseveration, *that he had never blamed the motives of the Committee*, and that he would cheerfully have joined his Brethren in declaring them to have been the purest or best, aggravated by the pledge of his *bona fides*, could neither escape notice, nor be suffered to pass without the severest reprehension. It must be admitted, indeed, that he had a strong inducement to violate truth in this instance, as the only attempt which he makes to show that his solemn declaration and oath before God was consistent with truth, fundamentally rests on his assertion, that he had never disputed the motives of the Committee, and that he had always thought them the purest or best.

The next instance of very gross violation of truth occurs in page 5. of the Defence. He says, " *I must add my most solemn declaration* with respect to two other propositions of some consequence in this discussion; which propositions, being negative, do not admit of direct proof, but which, I believe, will not be disputed by any of my Brethren.

" The first of these is, that with only one exception *, and this one of no consequence in the great subject of discussion, no attempt has been made to point out to me any error, either in those things which in my Review and Censorian Letter I had stated

* This single exception relates to a conversation with Dr Stuart, in which he pointed out to Dr Gregory his mistake with respect to one circumstance; and Dr Gregory allows that he had expressed himself respecting this too confidently and rashly; " but that very rashness or confidence," says Dr Gregory, " is a *proof* that I spoke and acted *bona fide* on that occasion!" *Vide* Defence, page 6. If, however, the conversation had not been interrupted by the presence of another person, it was Dr Stuart's intention to have pointed out, had he been inclined to listen to him, other errors besides this one, and these of much greater moment.

stated as matters of fact, or in those sentiments which I had expressed with respect to the principles of moral conduct, or in my mode of reasoning, and in the inferences which I had drawn from those things which I had considered and stated as matters of fact."

Though the proposition now quoted is supported by a *most solemn declaration*, it is nevertheless inconsistent with truth. Dr James Buchan, who had gone abroad some weeks before the Review and Censorian Letter were published, was in Edinburgh, upon a short leave of absence, in May 1807. Upon the 23d of that month he had a long interview with Dr Gregory, and on that occasion pointed out to him various errors in point of fact, and various misconceptions, misrepresentations, and unfair inferences contained in these Pamphlets. Dr Buchan had wished to state those points to Dr Gregory at a meeting of the College on the 19th of May 1807, but the President prevented him from proceeding, as the College at that time persisted in declining to hear any observations upon the Review and Censorian Letter. Dr Buchan detailed the heads of the conversation he had with Dr Gregory to Dr Spens and to Dr Duncan junior, immediately after it took place, and also to other Members of the College. Dr Spens, who had at the time committed to writing the particulars thus communicated, transmitted to Dr Buchan, then at Gibraltar, a copy of the above solemn declaration, extracted from the portion of the Defence delivered to the College in February 1808, along with a memorandum of the points in Dr Gregory's printed papers, with regard to which Dr Buchan had attempted in that conversation to set Dr Gregory right. The College have before them Dr Buchan's reply, in which he confirms the statement that he had that conversation, and that Dr Spens's memorandum contained, to the best of his recollection, the outlines of it. *Vide* App. N° IV.

The violation of truth to be next noticed, relates to Dr Wright. It occurs in p. 369. of Defence. Dr Gregory, in discoursing on the evidence given by Dr Wright, in his examination on the 19th December 1807, prints several questions which he had put to Dr Wright, and in allusion to them, observes, " But I was not quite so fortunate, in the contriving and expressing of those questions, as I had been with respect to some others, which I proposed to Dr Wright. *He declined to answer them.* Even this

declining

declining seemed to me to imply a great deal, nay, almost all that I wished him to have declared in presence of the College." Of these questions, five in number, which it is thus said he declined to answer, Dr Wright did actually answer four, and some of them in a manner quite contrary to Dr Gregory's wishes. One of these, with its answer, it is worth while to insert. *Question by Dr Gregory*:—" Was that part of the declaration of the College, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted in the most honourable manner, understood by Dr Wright to be only a temporary expedient, to save the feelings of Dr Spens and his Committee, and to restore peace to the College?" Answer by *Dr Wright*:— " I did *not* understand it in that light."

After asserting, that Dr Wright declined to reply to a question which he answered so explicitly, and imputing to him an opinion directly the reverse of what he had actually expressed, and after much sophistical reasoning upon this false foundation, Dr Gregory adds, " I firmly believe that *these were*, and to *this hour are*, the sentiments of *many others* of my Brethren, who concurred in the *declaration*; nor *can* I believe otherwise of any of them, till they shall explicitly declare the contrary, viz. that the *declaration* was *not* a temporary expedient, employed on a very urgent occasion, to serve that particular purpose which I supposed, and have specified, Defence, p. 370." And again, in page 372, " I conceive it therefore to be, with respect to my Brethren, the most candid and favourable supposition, and, with respect to myself, the safest course, to extend to all of them that notion, *which I firmly believe to be true* with respect to Dr Hamilton and *Dr Wright*, viz. that the declaration was but a temporary expedient."

Another of these is an allegation much insisted upon in the Defence. In pages 56, 102, 140, 452, &c. Dr Gregory, without hazarding the direct assertion, falsely, though cunningly, endeavours to impress his readers with the belief, that the Committee withdrew that part of the report which relates to act 1754, in consequence of his severe reprehension of their conduct, and of the measures proposed by them, as if they were conscious that they had acted dishonourably, and merited the censure bestowed on them in his printed papers. Defence, page 5. Dr Gregory says, " And lastly, I can *prove*, that they two, Dr Spens and Dr Hope, in these very remarkable circumstances, desisted from their project, at least

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pro tempore, and asked and obtained permission to withdraw their report, and reconsider it; and withdrew it accordingly, and gave it in again to the College, suppressing all those parts of it which I had reprobated as breach of faith, chicane, and falsehood: which proceeding on their part, I considered as explicitly retracting what they had improperly declared, and tacitly admitting the truth and justice of what I had said of their proceedings."

The fact, however, is, as has already been stated, that the Committee, about the middle of December 1804, before Dr Buchan left Scotland for foreign service, and long before they knew or suspected that Dr Gregory was preparing for publication, formally came to the determination of asking permission, at the next quarterly meeting, to withdraw those parts of their report which were likely to divide the College.

It has been already stated, that Dr Gregory was informed of this determination many weeks before his publications appeared, and even before many pages of the Censorian Letter were written, (as the date of the 13th December 1804, affixed to the 8th page, abundantly proves), first, in general terms, by Dr James Home, who had attended the meeting of the Committee when the determination was entered into, and afterwards by Dr Hamilton senior, at the express request of Dr Spens, then President. The correctness of that information has been fully confirmed to him since his Review and Censorian Letter were published, both in the minutes of the College of the 5th of February 1805, and by Dr Buchan on the 23d of May 1807, in the long conversation already alluded to. His papers, therefore, had no concern, and could have no effect on the determination of the Committee; and the credit which he takes to himself on this account, as well as his assertions upon the subject, he must have been conscious, were all equally destitute of foundation. It would be difficult to decide, whether the conduct of Dr Gregory, in publishing his injurious papers after he knew that the measure to which they related was relinquished, or in representing that relinquishment as the consequence of his publication, be the more reprehensible.

Had all the falsehoods already noticed been effaced from the memory of his injured Brethren, the following must have sufficed to have established the point now under illustration; for it is morally impossible to suppose that Dr Gregory could flatter himself with

with the expectation that this could escape due animadversion in the Royal College. He accuses Dr Hope, p. 111. and 112. of Defence, of having substituted certain words of his own, instead of the expressions of Dr Gregory, in the resolutions which he moved on the 5th of December 1807.

" I never could have supposed that any person would have attempted, or pretended to extend the meaning of my solemn declaration and oath, beyond what I had expressly said, or substitute, as Dr Hope has done, for my precise expression, *that proceeding*, (previously explained to mean the condemnation of me, and a strange difference with respect to the principles of moral conduct), the general vague comprehensive expression, *those proceedings*, *innuendo all the proceedings* of the College on that occasion."

This alleged substitution is, *in all its parts*, *an absolute and complete fiction.* The expression, *those proceedings*, which Dr Gregory accuses Dr Hope of having interpolated, *actually does not*, and *never did exist in the resolutions moved, from beginning to end.*

In other places, p. 134. he accuses Dr Hope of having substituted the expression, *their proceedings*, instead of the precise words, *that proceeding.* This imputation is not better founded than the other. Dr Hope has most faithfully and accurately transcribed the precise words of Dr Gregory's letter, and has no where substituted any expressions of his own. In the preamble to the third resolution moved by Dr Hope, the words, their proceedings, do occur as follows. " *3d*, That Dr Gregory, in the same letter, uses the following language, in regard to his ignorance of their proceedings on the said 5th of February 1805."

In this passage the expression, *their proceedings*, is most correctly used, and no other expression could have been used with equal propriety. It is not given as a quotation from Dr Gregory, or as expressing to what extent he had professed to be ignorant of their proceedings, but merely as introductory to the quotation from Dr Gregory's own letter, which is given *verbatim*, and is left to speak for itself. In the conclusion drawn from Dr Gregory's words, the term *that proceeding* is invariably employed.

Such are the imaginary misquotation and substitution which Dr Gregory, with the certainty of confutation staring him in the face, has imputed to Dr Hope, and of which he speaks in the following terms. " I protest peremptorily against all such tricks, and all proceedings founded on them, as deliberate falsehood, and determined knavery.

Can

Can it be credited, that while incessantly boasting of his own fidelity in quotation, and while thus indulging in groundless accusations against others, calculated to create distrust in the extracts which had been quoted from his long letter of 2d November, as containing the proofs of the violation of truth, of which he was accused, (and has been found guilty), he has himself printed in his Relative Documents an *imperfect* copy of that letter? Yet such is the case. *He has actually left out the part of it to which his solemn declaration and oath referred, and upon which the proof of his having violated truth in that solemn oath principally rests.*

The passage thus omitted is: "But he is not welcome to say, or to insinuate, as he has done in that printed paper, that I knew of the College having passed that Resolution, or Declaration, of February 1805, virtually deciding, (as he calls it), that my Censorian Letter was a false and scandalous libel, implying, that I had shrunk from any inquiry into my conduct in that business; that I had not chosen, or had not dared to vindicate what I had done; but had in a manner pleaded guilty, by allowing judgment to go against me, by default, in my absence; for the direct contrary of all these insinuations and implications is the truth." (*Vide* Rel. Doc. p. 98.)

By this omission his solemn declaration and subsequent assertions become unintelligible, and, at the same time, the evidence of his violation of truth is rendered very imperfect. A few days after the Defence had been given in to the College, Dr Gregory sent a printed postscript, the professed object of which was, to correct a mistake, (not that misrepresentation noticed in p. 68. & 69. of this paper), which he had committed in commenting on the evidence of Dr Wright; but in that postscript he has made no allusion to the omission of the above remarkable passage. His letter, of which it formed a part, extended in manuscript to sixty-four pages, and every word of it, excepting that essential part of the evidence against himself, is accurately and faithfully printed. Can it be supposed, even for a moment, that this circumstance could have been accidental?

These proofs, thus resting upon his own acts and writings, not only establish, beyond the possibility of contradiction, the position, that neither the facility of detection, nor the certainty of exposure,

exposure, have deterred Dr Gregory, when he had a purpose to serve, from asserting what is contrary to truth, and from pledging his *bona fides* in support of his assertion; but must also remove all surprise at his having been found guilty of a violation of truth in a solemn and spontaneous declaration and oath.

When it is considered within what narrow bounds the charge against Dr Gregory lies, it must appear at once to every reader, that there could be no occasion for so enormously voluminous a Defence as that which he has printed and distributed. Indeed, the circumstance of its extraordinary size affords the strongest presumptive evidence, that he found himself unable to bring forward any clear and satisfactory arguments, to shew that he had not been guilty of the deliberate violation of truth imputed to him, and chose on that account to involve it in a cloud of words.

Accordingly, as has been already stated, he has in that huge volume kept the real question as much as possible out of view, and has employed a variety of artifices to decoy the attention of the reader from the point at issue; so that, in fact, it is almost impossible for any one to discover, from a perusal of what he calls his Defence, the real nature of the charge against which Dr Gregory had to defend himself.

Under the pretence, too, of giving an account of his whole conduct towards the Royal College, he has, in this new appeal to the Public, taken the opportunity of repeating, in language of increased virulence, the calumnies of his Censorian Letter; of representing himself as the only Member of the College who has any pretensions to talents, veracity, and honour; and of pouring forth the most intemperate abuse on the whole College.

A detailed exposition of all these circumstances would fill a volume of equal size with his own, and on that account, and because the preceding Narrative must have brought into view so much of Dr Gregory's character, as to defeat his abuse and calumnies, the College deem it necessary to notice only a few of the most striking parts of that enormous volume. They begin with the misrepresentations of the nature of the charge.

The first of these occurs in page 2d of his Defence. He there asserts, "That he stands accused of *knowing* and *acquiescing* in the resolution of February 5. 1805." To refute this pretended accusation, he devotes by far the greater part of his defensive arguments, the whole of his logical disquisitions, his dilemmas, syl-

logisms, and enthymems, &c. No such allegation, however, was ever brought against him. No individual within the College, and none without, so far as is known, has ever expressed any opinion of his acquiescence or non-acquiescence; and from the resolutions themselves, it is evident that it formed no part of the charge against him.

This misrepresentation of the question at issue is not only calculated to mislead, but is also designed to impose upon the reader, by furnishing grounds for a plausible argument of moral, internal, and circumstantial evidence in his favour. Thus in page 428. he has founded upon it a dilemma, viz. That his Brethren, *when they believed that he had acquiesced* in the resolution of February 5. 1805, must have supposed that he did so, "either believing and knowing that their declaration was true, or else not believing it, but knowing that it was false." After shewing, as he alleges, that the former of these propositions is impossible, he asserts, p. 481. & 483. that the latter is not only false, but utterly incredible; and adds, "In the course of a long life, I have never known any person act in such an absurd and disgraceful manner; I have never even heard or read of such conduct." "Above all, if, in *my* conduct through the whole course of my life, they have known *any instances*, or even *one instance* of such baseness, and folly, and pusillanimity, I heartily wish they would declare it, and they ought to do so. It will tend greatly to convict me, and to vindicate themselves." Def. p. 432.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that the premises of this dilemma are *altogether false*; for, as has been already positively declared, his Brethren never *alleged* that he had *acquiesced* in the resolution of February 5. 1805.

With respect to the strong appeal to his own conduct through life, contained in the preceding quotation, Dr Gregory has been peculiarly unfortunate. He could not surely suppose, that his Brethren were ignorant, that he had been found guilty of defamation, highly injurious to the moral and professional character of one of his late Brethren, and punished by damages, fine, and expences, by a verdict of the Commissary Court. An appeal was open to the Court of Session and to the House of Lords, but he acquiesced in that decision. Now, according to his own mode of reasoning, he must have acquiesced in the decision of that Court, either knowing it to be true, or knowing it to be false.

If

If he acquiesced in it, knowing it to be true, it was acknowledging that he had been guilty of slander and defamation. If he acquiesced in it, knowing it to be false, he furnished that precise " instance of baseness, and folly, and pusillanimity," which he defied his Brethren to produce.

A second misrepresentation is, that he is accused of having denied the knowledge of *all* and *every part of the proceedings of the College on the 5th of February* 1805. The College, upon that day, went through various other business besides passing the resolution in vindication of the President and Committee; but it was never surmised, that he denied the knowledge of any other proceeding than the resolution itself.

Another misrepresentation is, that he never denied his knowledge of the resolution *in toto*, but had always been ready and willing to acknowledge that he was acquainted with *two parts of it.*

So far, however, is this statement from according with the fact, that when Dr Duncan senior, on the 5th November 1806, turned up the Minute-book, and pointed out to him the record of the resolution, he showed no readiness to admit, and did not intimate or express in any shape, that he knew any part whatever of that resolution: on the contrary, to the recollection and understanding of the College, he then declared, that he never before had heard any thing of it. Again, Dr Duncan senior, in the printed paper distributed six months thereafter, contends, " that it could not be supposed that Dr Gregory had remained long ignorant of that unanimous resolution." If he had been willing to acknowledge how much he knew of it, his observations on that paper afforded him the most favourable opportunity of doing so; but so far from admitting that he was acquainted with two of its three articles, he actually, in the most unqualified terms, deliberately, and in writing, denied all knowledge of that unanimous resolution. The admission was not made till after he had been much pressed by Dr Hope's strong and keen observations on the extreme improbability, if not impossibility, of his remaining ignorant of that resolution for one year and nine months, and not, as has been already mentioned, till the danger from persevering in the protestation of complete ignorance was greater even than that arising from the admission, seeing that he sat next to Dr Wright, one of those Members,

from whom he had received information, and on whose discretion he might not think it prudent to rely.

The admission, therefore, extorted from Dr Gregory, so far from tending to his justification, is a principal part of the strong and decisive evidence of the previous violation of truth. The loud and involuntary exclamation of unfeigned surprise and indignation which burst from different Members, as soon as this extraordinary admission, after being twice repeated, was distinctly heard and understood, testified the instantaneous and strong conviction of the deliberate violation of truth which that admission disclosed.

After this unfortunate disclosure, perceiving, it should seem, no other way in which he could preserve even the appearance of consistency, he artfully substitutes a part for a whole, and calls the third article of the resolution, the resolution itself, trying, by this quibble, to satisfy what he calls his honour and conscience, in declaring that he had *no knowledge whatever of the resolution.* And he shall satisfy the College, when he has proved that the whole and the third part of the resolution are precisely one and the same thing.

Another misrepresentation is, that the question between him and the College was altogether of a metaphysical nature; and that if they should find him guilty of falsehood, it must be upon metaphysical grounds. This gives him an opportunity of schooling the College, by introducing an episode on Metaphysics, occupying not fewer than threescore pages of his Defence, page 150, &c.

In this long disquisition, his object is to make it appear, that the proof of his having violated truth rests entirely on the abstract or metaphysical question, whether a declaration, that a person had acted from the purest motives, be equivalent to a declaration, that his conduct had been honourable.

But the real question, upon which the College have decided, has nothing to do with any metaphysical argument or doctrine, however industriously he may attempt thus to represent it. It is simply this, whether Dr Gregory told a truth or a falsehood, when he solemnly denied *all knowledge whatever* of the resolution of the College for one year and nine months.

The metaphysical discussion is introduced in the hopeless expectation of getting rid of a most perplexing embarrassment, in which even his own mis-statement of the case leaves him involved, and which, to some of those who are fond of such disquisitions, may

may appear perhaps nearly as flagrant a violation of truth, as that which is the object of the censure and reprimand of the College. This was forcibly urged in the meeting of the College, on the day when the detection of the falsehood took place. In consequence of his admitting, that he had actually been informed of the two first articles, it was argued by some of the Members, that if he had not heard the precise words, he had certainly been made acquainted with the spirit of the whole resolution; and knowing so much as he did, that he could not, consistently with truth, have taken a solemn oath, that he could never have suspected or imagined, or even have believed it possible, that the College could have declared the conduct of the Committee to have been honourable.

The pitiful subterfuges to which he at the moment resorted, have already been mentioned. He averred, that he considered the resolution, as he says it was reported to him, *as a delicate censure*; and that the expression of the College, namely, that the Committee had acted from the purest motives, *might mean the pure love of money.*

In the Defence he enters more deeply into the argument; but he is forced, in his own justification, to maintain doctrines of the most extravagant nature, and from which the feelings and the common sentiments of mankind equally revolt. The sum of this extraordinary reasoning is, that the perfect purity of a man's motives, in no degree denotes his actions to be honourable: that the purest motives may lead to the most dishonourable actions, or even to the most atrocious crimes: and therefore, though he knew that the College had declared the motives of the Committee to be the purest (or best), he could, without violating truth, swear, that he could never have suspected, or even have believed it possible, that the College could have declared that they had acted in an honourable manner; nay more, that though he had reprobated the conduct of the Committee, as highly immoral and dishonourable, he could, without inconsistency, and actually would cheerfully have joined in a vote of the College returning them thanks, and asserting the perfect purity of their motives. On the soundness of these opinions, and on their consistency with the general principles of morals, he ventures to rest the merits of his Defence, and hesitates not to affirm, that by this criterion it must be decided, *whether or not he shall stand convicted of falsehood and knavery.*

Though

Though there is little reason to suppose, that the utmost ingenuity can ever render such a doctrine plausible, yet Dr Gregory, in a long dissertation, has, with the assistance of sophistry and rhetorical finesse, had the boldness to make the attempt.

In prosecution of this attempt, he first endeavours to misrepresent the sentiments which had been expressed in the College, and to exhibit the sound moral doctrine conveyed by them, as an old unhallowed maxim, to which it bears no resemblance, viz. that the end sanctifies the means. Having done this, he declaims at great length, with much violence, against this supposed heresy.

The doctrine maintained by some of the Members was, that it is the motive which stamps the character and gives the moral denomination to the action: that the same action is honourable or dishonourable, according to the purity or baseness of the motives which dictate it, and consequently, that the College could not, without being guilty of the grossest absurdity, have declared their conviction that the Committee had acted from the purest motives, if they had believed that they had acted in the dishonourable, immoral, and unprincipled manner alleged by Dr Gregory.

It is scarcely necessary to state, that this is the doctrine of the world at large, and of every eminent writer on morals. It is the only doctrine which accords with the general sentiments and feelings of mankind. Dr Reid has expressed it well in a few words. " — In all moral estimation, every action takes its denomination from the motive that produces it;—no action can be properly denominated an act of justice, unless it be done from a regard to justice." (Essays on the Active Powers of Man, Ess. V. Ch. V.) How astonished would this venerable writer have been, had he lived to have seen this axiom in morals treated as the unhallowed and roguish maxim, " That the end justifies the means;" a maxim which no Member of the College ever supported or thought of, and which probably can be found no where but in systems of jesuitical morality!

His next device, is to alter the terms of the question. When discussing the point, whether that part of the declaration of the College, " that the Committee had acted from the purest motives," which he admits he knew, necessarily implied that their conduct had been honourable, he slily substitutes *good*, for *purest* or *best*, and adds to the term honourable, the only one used in the resolution,

solution, the terms of *right* or *meritorious*, though of a totally different meaning and import, and then confidently maintains, that a person acting from good motives may perform actions that are not honourable, right, or meritorious. This piece of finesse cannot avail him much; for though the position, as thus stated, is unquestionably true, since no one can deny, that a man, under the influence of pure motives, may, from ignorance, folly, or prejudice, act in a manner that is neither right nor meritorious, and in a manner highly inexpedient, or perhaps extremely foolish: yet this is totally different from the case in question. The College expressed no opinion whether the conduct of the Committee was expedient, or right, or meritorious; they only pronounced it to be perfectly honourable; and that conduct must surely be such, however inexpedient or imprudent, which is produced by a motive that is perfectly pure.

Those who learn from his Defence, that Metaphysics have been the amusement of a great part of his life, will perhaps be surprised at the doctrine, which he maintains at great length, that the purest motives may lead to the most dishonourable actions, or even to the most atrocious crimes; and that a motive which in one degree is pure and good, remains pure and good in every degree, even though opposed to motives of superior weight and consideration. The love of pleasure, the love of power, the sterling love of money, the love of fame, of life, the desire to preserve a fair character, &c. are stated by him as motives unquestionably good; and such they are in their proper place and degree; but he maintains, that they are still to be accounted good, though possessing such excessive influence, as stifles every natural affection, extinguishes all sense of religion, and incites to the most atrocious and detestable crimes.

Upon this principle, he hesitates not to affirm, in so many words, that the cruel mother who, to conceal her shame, barbarously murders her own child, acts from the purest or best motives, i. e. the laudable desire to preserve a good character: That the Surgeon or Midwife who perpetrates the crime of destroying the unborn infant, also acts from motives unquestionably good, as the love of money, and the desire to earn professional fees, are good and laudable: That J. J. Rousseau, in contriving to escape detection for an act of theft, by artfully and successfully imputing it to an innocent servant-maid, acted from a pure and

good

The College cannot think it necessary for them to give any assurances of the sincerity of their sentiments, expressed in the Resolution of February 1805. The re-election of Dr Spens as President for the *third* time, and the unanimous vote of thanks to him when he left the chair, render any further declaration or reference to their vote of adherence on the 24th November 1807 altogether superfluous.

Dr Gregory has employed above fifty pages of his Defence, p. 265. *et seq.* in a disquisition on the nature and import of that resolution, and has chosen to express his arguments on this subject in the technical terms of logical disputation. This, no doubt, serves a double purpose;—it displays his scholastic learning, while it enables him to mislead the generality of readers. The formality of a syllogism, and the semblance of demonstration which it holds out, are well calculated to impose on those who are not at all, or but little accustomed to that mode of reasoning. And as it is easy to introduce "some specious fallacies under the awkward *verbosity* of this artificial method *," it has been banished from all inquiries, whether in moral or physical science, where the investigation of truth is the object. A very slight examination of the syllogisms which Dr Gregory has stated as containing the propositions of his Censorian Letter, and of the Vote of the College in vindication of their injured Brethren, must convince every one of the appositeness of these observations in the present instance.

"The general position," says Dr Gregory, "asserted by me in my printed papers, with respect to the conduct of the Committee, is so plainly contradictory of the *virtual decision*, the declaration of the College that they had acted in the most honourable manner, that to assert the one is to deny the other, and *vice versa*. The same is true with respect to the *major* and the *minor* of each of them respectively; supposing each of them to be resolved into a regular syllogism, the conclusion of which, in the one case, would be the *virtual decision*, and in the other case would be my general proposition.

"The syllogism of the Royal College would stand thus:

"*Major*. Men who employ deliberate falsehood and chicane to accomplish, and at the same time to cloak, a determined breach of faith, act in the most honourable manner.

* See Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric, vol. i. p. 145.

"*Minor*.

" *Minor.* The Committee (appointed by the Royal College in 1804 to revise our laws) employed deliberate falsehood and chicane to accomplish, and at the same time to cloak, a determined breach of faith.

" *Conclusion.* Therefore the said Committee acted in the most honourable manner.

" My syllogism, on the other hand, would stand thus:

" *Major.* Men who employ deliberate falsehood and chicane to accomplish, and at the same time to cloak, a determined breach of faith, do not act in an honourable manner.

" *Minor.* The Committee employed deliberate falsehood and chicane to accomplish, and at the same time to cloak, a determined breach of faith.

" *Conclusion.* Therefore the Committee did not act in an honourable manner." Def. p. 266. & 267.

With respect to the former of these syllogisms, which he calls that of the College, it is only necessary to place it in opposition to the Resolution, to show that it not only does not contain, but that it is completely at variance with the propositions of that Resolution.

Syllogism.	*Resolution.*
Men who employ deliberate falsehood and chicane to accomplish, and at the same time to cloak a determined breach of faith, act in the most honourable manner.	" The College having taken into consideration the concern which the Committee have had in the late revisal of the laws, and the great trouble and attention they have bestowed on this, are of opinion, however different the sentiments of the different Members may be on that subject, that they have acted from the purest motives, and in the most honourable manner, and that they well deserve the thanks of the College."
The Committee (appointed by the Royal College in 1804 to revise our laws) employed deliberate falsehood and chicane to accomplish, and at the same time to cloak a determined breach of faith.	
Therefore the said Committee acted in the most honourable manner.	

From this contrast, the reader can judge for himself, whether Dr Gregory has resorted to the syllogistic method of reasoning in this instance, for the purpose of displaying the truth in a clear point of view, or of perverting and distorting it.

As to the second syllogism, or that which he calls his own, and which he asserts to be " valid in *all* its parts," no person in his sober senses would dispute the *major* of it. But with regard to

the *minor*, which expresses in a condensed form, the calumnious charges which he published against the Committee, the College have already fully shewn, from p. 9. to p. 34. of this Narrative, that it is in every respect false. There is, however, an assertion made by Dr Gregory, when stating this syllogism, which, though also completely disproved in the preceding Narrative, demands particular notice, as, from the frequency of its repetition in his Defence, some readers might be staggered with it, and might still suppose it true, were it to be passed over without special contradiction. He says, p. (268.), "Which *minor* I have deliberately asserted, with a full specification of the particulars to which I alluded, and precise references to the records of the College and the report of the Committee, in proof of *every particular* which I had stated." In many other parts of his Defence, (p. 7, 23, 107, 271, &c.) he boldly avers, that his account of the conduct of the Committee for the revisal of the laws, *is faithfully taken from the records of the College.*

Of his numerous assertions contrary to truth, there is not perhaps one more barefaced than this, or more open to detection. A very brief recapitulation of the charges against Dr Spens and the Committee will render this matter perfectly obvious. Has he the authority of the records of the College for asserting, that Dr Spens's motion in 1796, for the partial repeal of the act 1754, was ignominiously reprobated, was opposed by a great majority, or by any majority; and that it was permitted to be laid asleep, instead of being rejected, to save the feelings of Dr Spens;—that Dr Spens took the very first opportunity of his situation as President, to propose a revisal of the laws, that under this cloak he might accomplish a favourite project;—that for the same sinister purpose, he packed a Committee, and checked the debate at the second *nominal* reading of the report in November 1804? Has he the authority of their records for the assertions, that the report of the Committee was false from end to end,—that it was smuggled into the College, concealed from them, and put into circulation among the Members, for the purpose of counting noses;—that the Committee took the College by surprise, attempted to steal a march upon them, and to accomplish their purpose by chicane, deceit, &c. &c. and that they were determined to carry the measure through by force? Has he the authority of their records for asserting, that the act 1754 is a fundamental and indefeasible part of the constitution of the College,—that a repeal, or any alteration of that by-

law,

law, is illegal, immoral, and a determined breach of faith;—that it was notoriously false that doubts were entertained about the meaning of that act? And has he the authority of their records for asserting, that the said Committee were solely influenced by the sordid, selfish, odious, and disgusting motives and considerations of personal and pecuniary advantage?

The College shall answer these questions. Dr Gregory has not taken any one of these particulars from the records of the College. They are altogether the fabrications, misrepresentations, and unfair and unjust inferences of Dr Gregory himself, who, therefore, it is evident, has, to use his own expressions, (Defence, p. 265. and 266.), "forged a number of the foulest calumnies that could be contrived, against some of his own Brethren of this College; most falely and impudently pretending that he had taken them all from our own record, and from the report of a certain Committee of our own number."

The abuse which he pours forth on the whole College for having passed the Resolution of February 5. 1805, is repeated without reserve in many parts of the Defence. He says, that as it was inconsistent with his strong and confident assertions, it virtually pronounced him to be either absolutely insane, or guilty of the most deliberate malevolent falsehood and determined knavery, and that the College were wonderful and incorrigible blockheads, if they did not perceive that import of it. Def. p. 182. In page 34. he says, that no Member of the College who did not wish to be knocked down, could have ventured to tell him of that resolution; and intimates, that he would have been justified in pistolling the unhappy messenger.

There probably is not on record an example of such perverse and quarrelsome arrogance, as is contained in these, and numerous other passages to the same purpose. Mr A chooses to express a decided and very extraordinary opinion of the moral or intellectual character of Mr B. Soon after, Mr C, without taking any notice of this, chooses to express a different opinion, and is immediately accused by A of having called him a knave and a liar! It is in vain that C reminds A that he said nothing about him, and that he had as good a right to express his opinion as another. No, answers A, I expressed my opinion first, and whoever differs from me in opinion, virtually calls me a knave and a liar, and must answer for it accordingly! Even where different opinions are expressed

expressed as to matters of fact, a man must, in most cases, be very arrogant or very irascible to take offence at them; but society would present nothing else than one scene of bullying and outrage, if any thing in the nature of a personal insult were understood to be conveyed in expressing different opinions as to the moral worth or wisdom of individuals. Mens passions and prejudices, and habits of thinking, and opportunities of knowledge, and attention, are so extremely different upon these subjects, that the most opposite assertions may be made with perfect good faith, and of course a contradiction given, without the remotest idea of imputing either falsehood or insanity to the antagonist. One can scarcely go into society without hearing the most opposite opinions expressed, of the merit or demerit, the honesty or capacity, of the great public characters of our own or other countries. But was it ever heard of before, that any one complained of being called a madman or a liar, because somebody or other had refused to concur in his opinion? Has any body, since the days of Don Quixote, insisted on quarrelling with every one who differed from him in opinion as to the charms of his Dulcinea? Dr Gregory's proceeding, however, is still more extravagant and preposterous. Because he has thought fit to arraign Dr Spens, and the other gentlemen of the Committee, as false, dishonourable, and illiberal characters, he insists, that no one in the whole world shall, in public or in private, express an opinion in favour of their worth or integrity. To call them honourable or worthy men, it seems, is equivalent to pulling Dr Gregory by the nose. Sir Lucius O'Trigger himself had not a more ingenious method of forcing people into a quarrel.

Had Dr Gregory laid his accusations (as he was bound in duty to have done) before the College, and not before the public, and had the College, instead of a general and detached vote of approbation of the conduct of the Committee, without once mentioning his name, or his papers, found, in solemn and express terms, that the accusations were altogether groundless, and that the accuser should be severely reprimanded for the intemperance and precipitation with which he had brought them forward; he could, even in that case, have had no sort of right to accuse the College of imputing insanity to him, or to complain of their sentence as a partial sentence against him. But, considering the forbearance with which the College proceeded, and that all they did was

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to express and put upon their record that opinion of the conduct and of the motives of some of their Members, which every one who knows those gentlemen must entertain, the fury of Dr Gregory's resentment cannot fail to excite a strange mixture of compassion, indignation, and contempt. On no better ground than this unanimous vote in favour of the Committee, in many parts of his Defence, he pours out a torrent of the most extravagant and outrageous abuse against the College. Thus, for instance, (p. 2, & 484.) he charges them with *abominable falsehood* and *determined knavery* for having passed that resolution; (p. 57, 64, 108), accuses them of *unexampled baseness*, and of the most *flagrant, gross*, and *foul injustice* towards him for having passed it in his absence; and finally, (p. 283.) he compares their conduct in passing, and afterwards adhering to it, to that of a parcel of *thorough-paced rogues, swearing off* their companion, when under trial at the Old Bailey, for the trifling offences of robbery and murder.

The College must consider these revilings as the impassioned effusions of an irritable, ill-tuned, and much agitated mind, approaching, alas! too nearly to a distempered one. They are so perfectly satisfied that every one, who impartially attends to the subject, will view them in the same light, that they conceive that any *formal* reply or explanation on their part would be not only unnecessary, but degrading.

But the complaint, that the resolution of February 5. 1805 was passed in his absence, and that he was *condemned uncited* and *unheard*, which he has so often repeated, and on which he has founded so much of his abuse against *all his Brethren*, requires to be particularly noticed.

In the *first* place, It has been already shewn, that he was not *condemned* by that resolution. It indeed contradicted his assertions respecting his Brethren, but it contained no allusion to him, further than what was implied in the approbation expressed of the Committee,—it involved no censure or punishment upon him, for having wantonly hazarded, and unwarrantably published those unfounded and injurious assertions. In this respect, he is now informed, a minority of his Brethren yielded to a majority, who, from feelings of delicacy towards one with whom they had for many years lived in habits of intimacy and friendship, were anxious to vindicate their injured Brethren, without provoking a personal quarrel with Dr Gregory.

Secondly,

Secondly, The assertion, that he was *uncited*, is so obviously false, that had not the reader been possessed of sufficient proofs of the facility and boldness with which Dr Gregory utters what is contrary to truth, he must have supposed it an error of the press. He has explicitly admitted, that he expected that some strong measure against himself was to be adopted at that meeting; that he absented himself from it on purpose, to leave his Brethren at liberty to discuss freely his conduct; that Dr Hamilton senior did inform him, that a vote was to be passed in favour or in support of the Committee; and that this information was in consequence of his desiring to know what the Council had agreed to bring before the quarterly Meeting on that day. He cannot, therefore, deny that *he knew* of the Meeting, and he has not pretended that he did not receive the usual billet of citation. *He not only was cited to the meeting, but he was also acquainted with the very business which was to be transacted at that meeting.* And with all this, he stakes his fame and his fortune on the *truth* of his assertions.

Thirdly, The allegation, that he was *unheard*, is still more preposterous. If the College had passed the Resolution of February 5. 1805, even before the Members had read his Review and Censorian Letter, a complaint of this kind must have come with a peculiarly bad grace, from one who had been guilty of such unparalleled conduct towards his Brethren,—who had, without giving any previous hint of his intentions, and without asking any explanation of what might seem unaccountable to him, not only *arraigned*, but absolutely *condemned*, in terms of the utmost virulence, the conduct of five of his Brethren,—who, assuming to himself the threefold capacity of accuser, jury, and judge, had really *condemned* them *uncited and unheard.* But the fact is, that every Member on the roll of the College had read carefully his Review and Censorian Letter, before the Resolution of February 5. 1805 was passed. And as Dr Gregory has never offered any other evidence or arguments in support of his accusations against the Committee for the revisal of the laws, than what those publications contain, it is fair to conclude, that all he could allege on the subject was inserted in those pamphlets.

Dr Gregory has also complained loudly, that the College, by passing the Resolution in his absence, deprived him of the opportunity of acknowledging any mistakes or errors which he might unintentionally have committed in his printed papers, and of making

making the most ample reparation in case he had injured any individual. This, it must be allowed, is a singular complaint from a man who has repeatedly declared, that his absence was voluntary and intentional, though he knew that a motion in favour of the Committee was to be brought forward.

It is not denied, that Dr Gregory has made a profusion of those offers of acknowledgement and reparation, with all the air of ingenuous candour; but the College cannot conceal, that they felt it impossible to give him any credit for these. Candour, openness, and wishes to make reparation for injuries, were not to be expected from that man who had misrepresented almost every transaction of which he has written,—who, in a business under discussion in the College, in which the President and a Committee were deeply concerned, instead of delivering his sentiments openly in their meetings, composed in silence, and printed in secrecy, a rancorous and outrageous attack, and delivered it to the world, without giving the smallest intimation of his intentions either to the College or to the parties concerned, and who represented his Brethren as prosecuting a determined resolution to carry through by force a favourite project, long after he had been informed that the measure was actually relinquished. Little hope of acknowledgement of errors could be entertained of him who had staked his fame and fortune upon the truth of his assertions, the validity of his reasonings, and the fairness of his conclusions. To use his own words on another occasion, "he had placed himself beyond the reach of argument or reason, and was pledged, not merely in point of understanding, but in point of veracity, to maintain his system," his assertions, reasonings, and conclusions, "right or wrong, to the last." Could any hope of change of sentiment in that person be entertained, who had declared, that no man durst tell him that he had joined in the resolution in favour of the Committee, unless he was prepared immediately to go out with him, or to meet the *argumentum baculinum?* The very nature of the injuries committed by Dr Gregory, shewed that his offers of reparation could not be sincere, and that they were solely and entirely calculated to impress the world with the belief of his candour, or to lessen the disgust occasioned by his outrageous and intemperate conduct. Having deliberately committed injuries which he knew he could not redress, in such circumstances, his offer of reparation was adding insult to injury.

Subsequent conduct has proved, that the College did not form an erroneous opinion of his unwillingness to acknowledge and repair the injuries he had committed. Dr Buchan made a direct attempt to convince him that many of his imputations were unfounded, and that many of his facts were inaccurate: and yet, in the immense volume which he has since printed, he has not only omitted to notice Dr Buchan's attempt to set him right, but has even repeatedly asserted what he must have known to be false, if he believed Dr Buchan to have spoken the truth.

In various places of his Defence, he asserts, that several of the Members of the College concurred in the sentiments he had expressed in the Review and Censorian Letter, respecting the conduct of Dr Spens, and the Committee for revising the laws. This assertion is absolutely false. There was not an individual who entertained such sentiments. Every Member on the roll attended the meeting on the 5th February, and joined in the unanimous resolution passed on that occasion.

Dr Gregory particularly mentions Dr Hamilton senior, as one of those who, he says, concurred in the sentiments respecting Dr Spens and the Committee, expressed in his printed papers. Dr Hamilton, however, has disavowed this in the most explicit terms. He, it is true, like some others, strongly disapproved of the measure proposed by the Committee, and so far agreed with Dr Gregory; but very soon after the meeting of November 1804, he took an opportunity of acknowledging to Dr Spens, the impropriety and injustice of an expression he happened, in a moment of warmth, to use on that occasion; and he has unequivocally lamented and condemned the publication of the Censorian Letter and Review, as well as the tenor of those pamphlets, more especially as the subject of difference had been given up by the Committee, information of which he had himself the satisfaction of communicating to Dr Gregory.

Many pages of the Defence are devoted to an account of the sentiments and conduct of Dr Hamilton senior, and of Dr Gregory's communications with him. Were the College disposed, or did they think themselves at liberty, to report private and confidential conversations, according to the ordinary practice of Dr Gregory, it is in their power to tell a very different tale. They content themselves, however, with stating, that Dr Hamilton senior saw and considered the resolution of February 5th 1805, previous to the day on which he attended in his

place,

place, and voted for it, and of course, *previous to his calling upon Dr Gregory, to inform him, that a vote in favour of the Committee was to be moved*, and that he again attended the following quarterly meeting in May, when that resolution was sanctioned. His absenting himself from the College since that time, cannot therefore be attributed, as Dr Gregory has thought fit to allege, to any disgust at his Brethren for having passed that resolution.

On the strange inconsistencies respecting what Dr Gregory has said of Dr Hamilton senior, the College are unwilling to make any detailed comments; but it is impossible to pass over his incongruous boasting of increasing intimacy and continued friendship with that gentleman, (Defence, p. 241.) while he complains *(Ibid.* p. 235.) of his having declined to appear in his place, to give testimony in what related to him, (Dr Gregory), though most earnestly requested by himself to do so,—while he states in language not remarkable for its suavity, (*Ibid.* p. 220.) his sentiments of any person that should be an unwilling witness in such a case,—and while he bestows the most intemperate abuse on Dr Hamilton, in common with the rest of his Brethren, for passing the resolution of February 1805.

Dr Gregory also asserts, that some others of the senior Members, besides Dr Hamilton, had desisted from attending the meetings of the College, being dissatisfied with the proceedings of their Brethren. It is true, that one or two of them have not been so regular in their attendance of late as formerly. The College, however, do affirm, that this has not arisen from any disapprobation of the proceedings, in which they had an equal share with the rest, both when the resolution in favour of the Committee in February 1805, and when the vote of censure on Dr Gregory in November 1806, were passed, but solely from the wish, as they have without hesitation declared, to avoid the unpleasant discussions occasioned by the turbulent conduct and insulting papers of Dr Gregory. Had Dr Gregory given a true account of the absence of these gentlemen, and had they approved of his previous conduct, it cannot be imagined that any of them would have absented themselves on the late occasion, so important to Dr Gregory, or that they would have with-held from him their *friendly* support against a charge of so deep a dye, had they thought him innocent.

Throughout the whole Defence, with a considerable degree of art, Dr Gregory endeavours to represent, that in the differences

between the College and him, his Brethren had been the aggressors, and that he is the person who has suffered injury. The feelings of contempt and indignation, which such representations must excite, can scarcely be expressed in temperate language. Can it be doubted, that, even if all the assertions contained in his Review and Censorian Letter had been correctly true, the publication of those pamphlets, after he knew that the measure which they were avowedly intended to prevent, had been relinquished, was an unprovoked, as well as an unjustifiable, assault upon his Brethren? And can that man, who must be conscious of having falsified records, distorted facts, and contrived fictions, for the double purpose of calumniating others and of exalting himself, have the slightest pretence to complain that he is an injured person? Under such circumstances, attempts to create an interest with the public in his own favour, by making himself, although the rude and wanton aggressor, seem the persecuted and aggrieved party, are beyond all measure ludicrous and contemptible.

In the Defence, as well as in his Review and Censorian Letter, Dr Gregory has also artfully endeavoured to represent the conduct of his Brethren as originating in *vile party spirit*, and as an instance of the most rancorous *odium medicum*.

The College, however, have much satisfaction in reviewing the history of their Society; and can with confidence assert, that, during the days of the present Members, no traces of that spirit can be found, before the dissemination of Dr Gregory's Review and Censorian Letter, in the beginning of the year 1805. In regard to these pamphlets, the sentiments of the College were unanimous against him. In the subsequent and more recent transactions, it is true, Dr Gregory has not stood alone; but he has not gained many partisans; for, with the exception of Dr Brown, his "coadjutor" in business, and who has joined the College since that period, he has been supported only by two Members, Dr Wright and Dr Yule.

Against warfare among medical men Dr Gregory has strongly and justly declaimed. The College join heartily in reprobating it, both as injurious to individuals and degrading to the profession at large; and they deeply lament that he has introduced it amongst them, where it would otherwise have been unknown. It will scarcely be supposed, however, that he is sincere and candid

candid in decrying this species of contention, since he is the only Member of the College who has shown any passion for it, and has indeed been constantly engaged in one quarrel or other of this kind for a long series of years. Already he has favoured the world with several ponderous volumes, containing little short of 2000 quarto pages, besides some minor publications, all devoted to rancorous controversy and strife: And certainly it is not a little disingenuous in him, to impute to others the commencement of the warfare, when, in fact, he has uniformly been the aggressor, and, in general, altogether a volunteer in the service.

Dr Gregory, in his Censorian Letter, p. 134. professes, that his conduct in the affairs of this College was regulated by the consideration which the influence of his example, as a Member of the University, and of the Medical School in it, might have on the rising generation.

If he had indeed been animated by a sense of duty to the rising generation, and by a real regard for the welfare of mankind, the College apprehend that they would have been saved the unpleasant task, which they are glad now to bring to a conclusion.

It is with much concern, that they are compelled to represent the Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, as directing young men, by his example, rather to the model of Radcliffe, (of whose character Dr Gregory has mentioned *extreme irascibility* and *insufferable insolence* as prominent features, Def. p. 158. and 159.), than of Boerhaave and Haller. These great men had also their controversies; but they related to professional subjects, tended to the advancement of science, and were conducted on their part with decorum; far from the levity, the violence, and scurrility of Dr Gregory's compositions. It was not by such means as Dr Gregory has employed to signalize himself, that the elder Monro laid the foundation of our Medical School, or that its reputation has been supported and extended by Whytt, Cullen, Black, and Dr Gregory's own father.

Few Physicians have more frequently proclaimed the imperfections of medicine—the doubtfulness and obscurity of the science, and the inefficacy in many cases of its practice, than Dr Gregory. It would have been well for him, and perhaps also for the world, if, bearing this in mind, and also the responsibility of his official situation, he had employed his leisure and his talents in cultivating and improving his profession, and in establishing his fame and

reputation

reputation upon the substantial basis of advancing this object, which demands his chief attention, instead of aiming at notoriety and distinction, by contumelious representations of the Faculty at large—by vain declamations in his own praise—and by malevolent and calumnious attacks on the moral character of his Brethren.

Some, they doubt not, there are, who, accustomed only to hear of the frank generosity and active beneficence of Dr Gregory, may not be disposed to believe, that a man of such pretensions can have deviated so far, as these pages shew him to have deviated, from the straight and onward path of sincerity and rectitude. But the College must be permitted to say, that those persons reason very inconclusively, who affirm, that because he may have acted well towards some of his friends, he has not acted ill towards the College and its Members. To establish the credit of their Narrative, it is not necessary to account for his inconsistencies, or to reconcile one part of his conduct with another. And however distressing and degrading the consequences may be to Dr Gregory from the exposition of the many instances of his disregard to candour, probity, and truth, which the College have been obliged to lay open in the preceding pages, they confidently trust, that it will be evident to every impartial reader, that this disclosure was no longer a matter of choice, but of necessity.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

THE preceding Narrative having been drawn up by the Council, in consequence of an order from the College on the 13th of September 1808, it could not contain the detail of Dr Gregory's conduct beyond that period. The College, however, think it proper to subjoin an account of the subsequent transactions, which have terminated in their suspending him from all the rights and privileges of a *Fellow* of the Royal College, till he shall make satisfactory acknowledgments.

On the 7th of February 1809, Dr Gregory transmitted the following paper, by way of Reasons of Protest against the decision of the College on the 13th of September 1808.

"PROTEST by DR GREGORY.

I protest against the proceeding of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, on the 13th September last, as contrary to truth, contrary to evidence, grossly unjust and malevolent with respect to me, and evidently a continuation of certain well-known proceedings of gross falsehood and malevolence towards me, by the same seven individuals, namely, Dr Charles Stewart, Dr Thomas Spence, Dr Andrew Duncan senior, Dr Andrew Duncan junior, Dr James Home, Dr Thomas Charles Hope, and Dr James Hamilton junior, who being for the time a majority of the Royal College, have combined to do me this new and most foul injustice, when they found me determined to vindicate myself from the former wrong they had done me, and to call them to a strict account for their falsehood and injustice in that proceeding.

For the complete proof of what I have thus stated, and for a full exposition of those facts and circumstances in my conduct, and in the conduct of those seven individuals whom I have named, which led to that fresh act of unexampled baseness, of deliberate falsehood,

falsehood, and rancorous vindictive malevolence towards me, against which I now protest, I refer to my several printed papers, and particularly to my Defence, already before the College.

Further, I protest and declare, That I shall take, *without delay*, the most effectual and *public measures* fully to vindicate my own character, and to repel and expose that additional most foul injustice, which the afore-named seven Fellows of the Royal College, being for the time the majority of it, have conspired to do me; evidently for the most dishonourable purpose, of preventing me from vindicating myself, as I could easily have done, from the base injustice of *that previous act of theirs*; of which Act and Declaration, the injustice and falsehood were in some measure concealed by the ambiguity of the terms in which they had taken care to express it, but were, in fact, so gross and palpable, when the declaration was strictly examined and analyzed, that they could not be explicitly avowed or maintained, without infamy as well as absurdity, and that when I desired those who had concurred in that previous unjust condemnation of me, untried, unheard, uncited, to explain their own words, so as to give me a fair opportunity of either vindicating myself, if I was innocent of the offence imputed to me, or else of acknowledging and repairing, as I had publicly and repeatedly offered to do, any wrongs which I had committed, as soon as these should be made known to me, they did not chuse to explain their own meaning, but most uncandidly and dishonourably declared that they adhered to their former resolution.

(Signed) J. GREGORY."

Edinburgh, 7th February 1809."

In a protest against a vote of censure and reprimand for a deliberate violation of truth in a solemn oath, it was to be expected that Dr Gregory would declare it to be contrary to truth and evidence; but it was scarcely to be supposed that he would have been so unwise, as to furnish another remarkable instance of that wantonness in preferring groundless accusations against his Brethren, and of that complete disregard to truth in supporting them, which it has been the object of the College to expose in the preceding Narrative.

To enable the reader to form a proper estimate of Dr Gregory's allegation of a conspiracy formed against him by the seven individuals

viduals named in his protest, it will be sufficient to remind him, that the previous act of *deliberate falsehood* and *unexampled baseness*, of *gross injustice* and *rancorous malevolence towards* HIM, which he boldly asserts to have been the act of the " afore-named" seven Fellows, is nothing else than the unanimous resolution, so often referred to, of the 5th February 1805, in favour of the Committee for revising the laws; and that this, so far from being the act of those seven individuals, was passed at so very full a meeting, that besides them, every other Member on the roll, excepting Dr Gregory alone, was present, viz. Dr Monro senior, Dr Hamilton senior, Dr Rutherford, Dr Wright, Dr Yule, Dr Monro junior, and Dr Morrison.

For the falsehood of his assertion Dr Gregory cannot plead ignorance. His *Defence* and *Relative Documents* afford ample proof that he was perfectly well acquainted with the real state of the fact. Moreover, he could not be ignorant, that even of the *seven* individuals named by him, neither Dr Spens, then President, nor the other three Members of the Committee, viz. Drs Duncan senior and junior, and Dr Hope, could or did vote on the said 5th of February, for the particular resolution which specially respected themselves.

The protest, at the suggestion of the Council, was remitted to the consideration of a Committee. Their report, presented on the 13th of May 1809, with an amendment proposed by themselves, is to the following purport:

" The Committee have deliberated upon the paper, indorsed, " Protest by Dr Gregory, February 7th 1809." It appears to them, both in its matter and style, to be equally inconsistent with truth and decency. It is their opinion, that it ought on no account to be ingrossed in their Records, but kept *in retentis*, as one of the many proofs of his temper and conduct towards the College, and as a justification of the measures towards him, which he may compel them to adopt.

They think it necessary to propose, that the author of such a paper should be suspended from the right he possesses of attending their meetings, and from all the rights and privileges he enjoys as a Fellow of the College, until he make satisfactory acknowledgments: a sentence equally requisite for the restoration of the peace and amity, during so many years disturbed by the outrages

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of Dr Gregory, as for the purpose of stigmatising these outrages, though in a manner far more lenient than they deserve."

The College, by a majority of eight to two, approved of this report, and accordingly suspended Dr James Gregory from attending their meetings, and from all the other rights and privileges of a Fellow of the Royal College, until he shall make satisfactory acknowledgments.

August 1809.

A P-

APPENDIX.

N° I.

(Referred to, Narrative, p. 50.)

AS Dr Wright's evidence relating to his communications with Dr Gregory and other Members, though it appeared very inconſiſtent to the College, has been confidently appealed to by Dr Gregory as a ſatisfactory vindication of himſelf in certain particulars, it is deemed neceſſary to publiſh the following Statement of Facts

Dr WRIGHT was Vice-Preſident of the College at the time when Dr Gregory's violent publications appeared, in January 1805. He could not fail to be perfectly well acquainted with the terms of the Reſolution paſſed in favour of Dr Spens and the Committee, having been preſent at the Council-Meeting on the 4th of February, when it was agreed on, having heard it diſcuſſed in the College on the 5th of February, and, on that occaſion, (in conſequence of his being placed in the Chair), having actually pronounced it twice, firſt to the Preſident, and then to the Committee.

In November 1806, when the Council were deliberating upon the ſubject of the extraordinary queries which Dr Gregory had read and delivered to the College, Dr Wright produced a ſeries of anſwers, which, though correſponding in ſentiment with the views entertained of them by the other Members, were not adopted by the Council, as it was conceived, that the ſtyle of theſe queries called more for a vote of diſapprobation and cenſure than a detailed reply. Dr Wright *acquiesced;* and he heard the opinion or anſwer of the Council (which concluded with two Reſolutions, the laſt of which contained a vote of cenſure,) deliberately and diſtinctly twice read over. Next day he attended another meeting of the Council, aſſembled to conſider a ſmall alteration propoſed to be made on *the introductory part* of the anſwer; and very ſoon after, on the ſame day, after again hearing the paper recommended by the Council very audibly read, joined in the vote of cenſure on Dr Gregory. Dr Wright was preſent at the ſubſequent meeting in February 1807, when this vote of cenſure was read as part of the minute, and when it received the ſanction of the College, without making any objection to it.

At the quarterly meeting in May 1807, Dr Gregory, contrary to what both he and Dr Wright knew to be the rules of the College, and apparently for the purpoſe of taking the College by ſurpriſe, (as he had before avowed

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that he intended in the inſtance of his queries), preſented to the Chair the following letter from Dr Wright.

" SIR, *Edinburgh, 22d April* 1807.

" Having a ſudden call to London on particular buſineſs, puts it out of my power to attend the Meeting of the College on the 5th of May next. Permit me, therefore, to deliver my ſentiments in writing on the caſe of Dr Gregory, before the College.

" 1*ſt*, That at the Council previous to the extraordinary Meeting of the College, I ſubmitted a ſtring of anſwers to Dr Gregory's queries, which, though generally approved, were not adopted.

" 2*d*, That at ſaid Meeting of the Council, certain reſolutions were read, which the Council propoſed to recommend to the College, but which were not finally ſettled that day.

" 3*d*, That a Meeting of the Council was held half an hour before the extraordinary meeting of the College; the opinion of the Council was read over; *but I have not the most distant recollection of the concluding paragraph of these Resolutions being read to me; but if the ſaid concluding paragraph was read at this meeting* of the Council, it muſt have been in that hurried manner as to make no impreſſion.

" For theſe reaſons I conſider myſelf at full liberty to *depart* from the reſolutions of the College, and to *proteſt*, what I now do, againſt the vote of cenſure being carried into effect.

" I have the honour to be, moſt reſpectfully, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervant, (Signed) WILLIAM WRIGHT.

To Dr Charles Stuart, Preſident of the Royal College of Phyſicians."

The ſurpriſe occaſioned by this ſingular attempt to retract a vote which he had deliberately given ſix months before, and reſpecting which he had obſerved perfect ſilence, when he heard the minute of the tranſaction read, at the ſubſequent quarterly meeting, in February 1807, could only be equalled by the indignation which the falſe ſtatement of facts, and the vile inſinuations againſt the Council, excited. Both were ſtrongly expreſſed by ſome of the Gentlemen; but it was agreed that no ſteps ought to be taken till Dr Wright ſhould be preſent, to anſwer for himſelf. Having learned, on his return to Scotland, the ſentiments entertained of the above letter, he tranſmitted, in due form, to the Preſident, the following.

" Mr Preſident, *Edinburgh, 3d Auguſt* 1807.

" DEAR SIR,

" I had not the ſmalleſt intention to inſinuate, that the Council, or any Member of it, were capable of altering, adding to, or ſuppreſſing any part of the Reſolutions read in the Council, or in the College, laſt February meeting.

" Several circumſtances called off my attention to their nature and contents, and for a time effaced them from my recollection.

" I

"I have good reaſons for changing my mind on thoſe Reſolutions of the College; and eſpecially on ſuch paragraphs that contained cenſure on Dr Gregory, and to which, *in the heat of the diſcuſſion*, I reluctantly gave my aſſent, or acquieſcence.

"I therefore beg leave to withdraw my letter of the 22d of April, as being partly incorrect, and conſider myſelf at liberty to vote, in the future ſtages of this diſcuſſion, as my judgment and conſcience may direct me.

"I have the honour to be, with great reſpect, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervant, (Signed) WILLIAM WRIGHT.

"*To Dr Charles Stuart, Preſident of the Royal College of Phyſicians.*"

As this letter acknowledged the incorrectneſs, and diſavowed the injurious inſinuations of the former one, the College, unwilling to conduct themſelves towards Dr Wright with ſeverity, only refuſed to permit him to withdraw his firſt letter, and ordered both to be recorded. Both, therefore, ſtand on their minutes, an irrefragable proof of the undue and extraordinary lengths which Dr Wright was willing to go for the purpoſe of ſerving his friend Dr Gregory.

Dr Wright was alſo preſent at the meeting, November 24. 1807, when the diſcloſure of Dr Gregory's falſehood, relative to the reſolution of February 1805, took place; and though he remained ſilent during the diſcuſſion, this tranſaction could not fail to direct his attention ſtrongly to the particular terms in which he had communicated that reſolution to Dr Gregory, more eſpecially as ſo much of the argument turned upon *the precise expressions* which he had uſed on that occaſion.

The reaſons mentioned in the note, p. 47. of the Narrative, induced Drs Stuart, Spens, and Hope to wait on Dr Wright on the 1ſt of December 1807. They had every reaſon to ſuppoſe that he was one of the perſons alluded to by Dr Gregory, in his acknowledgement, (Nar. p. 44. and 56); and they were anxious to know the full extent of that information, as they had had various proofs of the readineſs with which Dr Gregory perverted facts, when it ſuited his own purpoſes.

Dr Stuart began by aſking Dr Wright if he had not informed Dr Gregory of the reſolution of 5th February 1805? Dr Wright, at once, and moſt readily replied, that he had. Dr Stuart then requeſted to know what he had told him. *Dr Wright ſaid, that he had told Dr Gregory, that the College had completely acquitted the Committee, and had declared that they had acted quite honourably.* On this occaſion Dr Wright ſpoke without doubt or heſitation, and apparently in the perfect recollection of every circumſtance. As this account of the communication to Dr Gregory coincided perfectly with the ſpirit of the reſolution, and as it could not be imagined that he would give an erroneous ſtatement to Dr Gregory, theſe gentlemen put no more queſtions to Dr Wright relative to thoſe expreſſions. Dr Wright, however, evinced very fully his perfect recollection of the events of 5th February 1805, by recalling

to the remembrance of his viſitors ſome of the other occurrences which took place on that day.

Dr Spens and Dr Hope, ſeparately, on going home, took a memorandum of what had paſſed, and to preclude every poſſibility of miſtake on their part, they (Dr Stuart being unable to accompany them) again waited upon Dr Wright *two days* after, that is, *on the 3d of December*, and ſhewed him the ſtatement of what had paſſed at their interview on the 1ſt, and requeſted him to certify it to be correct, if he found it to be ſo. Dr Wright had thus had full time to reflect upon the information he had communicated to Dr Gregory. He read the ſtatement deliberately, aſked leave to take a copy of it, and after tranſcribing it, ne added to the original the following declaration, 'I declare, that the above ſtatement is, to the beſt of my recollection, correct. (Signed) WILLIAM WRIGHT.'

On the ſame day, Dr Wright *sat next* to Dr Hope at the election-dinner, but ſpoke not a word to him reſpecting the forenoon's tranſaction. Before quitting the room, however, he mentioned to Dr Stuart, while at coffee, and the company all talking around them, and when Dr Stuart heard very imperfectly what he ſaid, his wiſh or expectation that his written teſtimony ſhould be returned to him, being deſirous of giving a *viva voce* evidence on the ſame ſubject, if called upon in the College. Dr Stuart ſaid, that he ſaw no objection, for his own part, to his written declaration being given up, but did not know what might be the ſentiments of Dr Spens and Dr Hope; but Dr Wright did not give him the ſmalleſt hint, nor had Dr Stuart the moſt diſtant idea, that he meant to depart in any degree from the teſtimony he had ſubſcribed.

On the 4th of December, the Council met for the purpoſe of having communicated to them the reſolutions which Drs Hope and Spens were next day to move in the College reſpecting Dr Gregory; and Dr Hope then tabled Dr Wright's ſigned ſtatement, as it formed a part of one of the propoſed reſolutions.

On the 5th, when the Preſident was about to take the Chair, Dr Wright came up abruptly to Dr Hope, and without aſſigning any reaſon whatever, demanded back the ſigned ſtatement. Dr Hope could not give it up, as he had already tabled it before the Council, and as it conſtituted a part of one of the reſolutions, which the College were convened for the expreſs purpoſe of hearing moved, and as Dr Wright gave no reaſon for making the demand.

On the 19th of December, the day fixed for conſidering the reſolutions, as ſoon as Dr Hope had ſtated the grounds on which he had brought them forward, Dr Wright read a ſpeech, in which he retracted part of the teſtimony he had before given, and diſclaimed the ſtatement bearing his own ſignature, as "*ſpurious*," and "*none of his*." He refuſed to deliver this paper to the clerk. The copy which follows is taken from the *Relative Documents* of Dr Gregory.

Dr WRIGHT's SPEECH.

" Mr President,

What I am about to deliver is not from *memory* or *recollection*, which is often fallacious, but from notes and memorandums I found amongſt my papers *on the morning of the 3d December current:* By thoſe notes, and the minutes of your records, *I am completely master of the subject*; and the proceedings of the Royal College, at their meeting of the 5th February 1805, are now as freſh on my memory as if it had been on yeſterday.

I ſhall recount the occurrences, and ſome other matters connected with the meeting of the College at the time; and ſhall briefly ſtate what part of the proceedings I reported to Dr Gregory, and what part I did not think proper to communicate.

On the evening of the 4th February 1805, I called on Dr Gregory, at his own houſe; I told him, I had had a viſit from Dr Spens; that he appeared to be in the greateſt diſtreſs and anxiety of mind. He ſaid he was much hurt and *injured* by what Dr Gregory had ſaid of him;" (in his Cenſ. Lett. and Rev.) " that he was aware of my ſentiments, as well as of thoſe of ſeveral others of the Members of the College; diſapproving of the report of the Committee for the reviſing of the laws; and that they had exceeded their powers; but, ſaid he, you may call us all the fools and idiots you pleaſe, *but do not call us diſhonest.* On the ſame evening I reported to Dr Gregory what happened that day in the Council; that ſeveral of the Members ſympathized with Dr Spens; that, *in order to save his feelings*, one of his friends propoſed, that a motion ſhould be made in the College next day, to return thanks to Dr Spens, and to his Committee, for the great pains they had taken in reviſing the laws, and that they were convinced that they had acted from the pureſt motives.

Soon after the Meeting held on the 5th of February, I told Dr Gregory, that a motion had been made in the College, agreeable to the recommendation of the Council, which after much diſcuſſion, had been agreed to, and that the College had ordered the Vice-Preſident to render their thanks, firſt to Dr Spens, and then to his Committee, for the reviſal of the laws, and that they were convinced they had acted from the pureſt motives.

Here I ſtopt;—more than this I did not report to Dr Gregory, of the proceedings of the Royal College of Phyſicians, on that day, nor upon any other occaſion whatſoever. No! not even after Dr Duncan ſenior had ſhown him the minutes of the College of the 5th of February 1805.

I come now to the moſt painful part of my duty. It is to ſpeak of that paper, that letter or document on your table. On the 1ſt of December current, the three gentlemen" (Drs Stuart, Spens, and Hope) " named in that paper came to my door; on being admitted, I heard Dr Stuart call out, " *A deputation, A deputation!!*" I took this for a piece of pleaſantry, and

and received them kindly as friends. Soon after, Dr Stuart aſked me, "if I remembered the proceedings of the College of the 5th of February 1805?" I ſaid I did. "Do you recollect telling Dr Gregory of the reſolution of the College, and of their *having acquitted* Dr Spens and his Committee *honourably*"? *I said O yes, I think I did, I believe I did, and that I had told him in a general way what had been done.* After a few minutes, they took their leave, and we parted pleaſed with each other. I ſuſpected no evil.

Next day, 2d December, Dr Spens and Dr Hope came to my houſe *in the forenoon.* Dr Spens remindéd me of the converſation of *yesterday.* I anſwered, I remembered it. He then preſented to me the paper on your table, drawn up by themſelves, or under their direction, recounting the converſation of the *preceding* day, which, without giving it due conſideration, I certified that ſtatement to be correct, as far as my recollection ſerved me.

Before theſe gentlemen went away, I told them that what I had done, did not preclude me from attending the extraordinary meeting on the 5th December. They replied, it did not.

On diſcovering my notes or memorandums *on the morning of the 3d December*, I ſaw how much my recollection had failed me! how much I was deceived and miſtaken! I went to dine with the College that day, and was in hopes I could ſet that matter to rights. I took the firſt opportunity of ſpeaking to Dr Stuart, and ſaid, as I intended making my perſonal appearance at the meeting of the College on the 5th December, the declaration obtained from me may be cancelled. His reply was, "certainly it may." I expreſſed myſelf in the ſame terms to Dr Spens; his anſwer was, "I ſhould think ſo *too.*" *I had no opportunity of speaking to Dr Hope*, until he came into the room, when the Members of the College were aſſembling for the meeting of the College, 5th December. I ſaid to him, "you muſt give me that paper back." He haſtily ſaid, *No! it was tabled* *. I made another attempt to prevent its being read, by offering myſelf for examination; when Dr Hope ſaid, "Sir, do you mean to interrupt me?" I ſat down much diſconcerted.

This violent conduct of Dr Hope is new and unprecedented; as, an evidence, who has been examined on oath before a court of juſtice, finding he was miſtaken in the declaration he had emitted, and deſirous of being again examined before the court, has a legal right to have his previous evidence cancelled. This, however, was denied me. I was prevented and obſtructed from giving my teſtimony in my own words.

On reviewing the whole of this buſineſs, and carefully weighing every circumſtance in my own mind, I was led to the following concluſions.

1. That if the projectors and framers of that document on your table, had, by a preconcerted plan, intended to ſurpriſe, to enſnare, and to entrap me, they could not have been more ſucceſsful. It had the fulleſt effect. I became the dupe of their artifice.

2.

* This could not be, as the meeting was not conſtituted; nor was it tabled formally for an hour and a half after. *Note by Dr Wright.*

2. That it appears to me that the authors of that paper came to my houſe with unfriendly diſpoſitions towards me, and hoſtile deſigns againſt Dr Gregory. *I was singled out as the tool and instrument to inflict the mortal wound and to blast his character ! ! !*

Nor ſhall I be of another opinion or belief, until theſe gentlemen give ſatisfactory proof to the contrary, and that they, upon this occaſion, *acted from pure and honourable principles.*

I *disavow* that declaration or document on your table *as none of mine*; as ſurreptitious, as ſpurious, and illegally obtained from me.

I now ſolemnly proteſt and declare, that I did not report to Dr Gregory that the Royal College of Phyſicians had honourably acquitted Dr Spens and his Committee, either on the evening of the 5th of February 1805, or at any ſubſequent time thereafter."

Soon after this paper was read, Dr Gregory, as has been already mentioned, Nar. p. 49, put a ſeries of prepared and written queſtions to Dr Wright, by which he endeavoured to get ſuch anſwers from him as were conformable to his own views, which naturally led ſeveral of the Members to put ſuch queſtions to Dr Wright as occurred to them at the moment. As this examination was wholly unforeſeen on the part of the College, they were not prepared to put thoſe queſtions to Dr Wright, and to others, which would have exhibited the circumſtances of the caſe in the moſt ſtriking manner; but, as it is, the whole is ſo remarkable that it is here ſubjoined, and the reader may form his own judgment of it.

EVIDENCE of Dr William Wright, taken at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Royal College of Physicians, held upon the 19th day of December 1807.

Queſtions by Dr Gregory.

1. Dr Gregory.—Does Dr Wright remember telling Dr Gregory, that it was propoſed by the Council to return thanks to Dr Spens and the Committee, for the great trouble they had taken in reviſing the laws, and to declare that the College was convinced that they had acted from the beſt or pureſt motives, or words to that effect?

Dr Wright.—I do.

2. Dr Gregory.—Does Dr Wright remember Dr Gregory, on hearing theſe

theſe two articles mentioned, ſay, if that is all, I ſhould agree to it, or concur in it, if I were at the College, or words to that effect?

Dr Wright.—*I remember it very well.*

3. Dr Gregory.—Does he acknowledge any difference between the import of declaring, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted from the pureſt motives, and declaring that they had acted in the moſt honourable manner?

Dr Wright.—Whatever difference I conſider between theſe two things, I kept it to myſelf, and did not inform Dr Gregory that Dr Spens and his Committee were acquitted honourably.

4. Dr Gregory.—Does he conceive that every action proceeding from a good motive, is itſelf good and honourable?

Dr Wright.—I do not, becauſe a perſon may err in judgment.

5. Dr Gregory.—Had Dr Wright read with attention Dr Gregory's printed papers before the meetings of the Council on the 4th, and College on the 5th of February 1805?

Dr Wright.—I read them with attention.

6. Dr Gregory.—Was he well acquainted with the tenor of theſe printed papers?

Dr Wright.—I was.

7. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand that Dr Gregory imputed to Dr Spens and his Committee any other motives for their actual conduct, but a deſire to promote their own pecuniary intereſt individually, and alſo that of the College as a body?

Dr Wright.—I underſtood Dr Gregory in that way, as imputing no other motives to them.

8. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand that Dr Gregory blamed the Committee for theſe motives?

Dr Wright.—*I did not underſtand that he did.*

9. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand that Dr Gregory, in his printed papers, blamed them for their actual conduct in the Report which they had given in to the College?

Dr Wright.—I underſtood that he did blame them.

10. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand that Dr Gregory blamed them much for exciting diſſenſion in the College, by introducing a propoſal the ſame in ſubſtance with one which Dr Spens had introduced, and puſhed very keenly in 1796, but which was greatly diſapproved of by many of us at that time; and after repeated and very full conſideration, and much debate for about nine months, was at laſt dropped, or ſuſpended *ſine die?*

Dr Wright.—I think he blamed them very much. I do not incline to add any thing elſe to this reply.

11. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand Dr Gregory to have blamed them for violating their own charter, and thoſe of the ſurgeon-apothecaries?

Dr Wright.—He blamed them very much on both theſe accounts.

12. Dr

12. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand that, by thoſe charters, the practice of Pharmacy, publicly or privately, is forbidden to us of the Royal College of Phyſicians, and given excluſively to the Surgeon-apothecaries?

Dr Wright.—I underſtand by thoſe charters, that the practice of Pharmacy is forbidden to the Members of the College of Phyſicians in this place, and given excluſively to the Surgeon-apothecaries.

13. Dr Gregory.—Did he underſtand, that for us to keep ſhops, even privately, and furniſh medicines to our own patients, as was propoſed by Dr Spens in 1796, and avowed in November 1804, to be the meaning and purpoſe of the Report of the Committee for reviſing our laws, was according to, or contrary to the true ſpirit and plain meaning of our enactment of 1754?

Dr Wright.—I think it contrary to it.

14. Dr Gregory.—Does he think it was honourable and right for any of our Members to propoſe ſuch a breach of faith on the part of the College, or ſuch an abſolving of ourſelves from that obligation?

Dr Wright.—I decline anſwering that queſtion in the preſent ſtage of the buſineſs.

15. Dr Gregory.—When it was propoſed in the Council, and reſolved by the College, 4th and 5th February 1805, to declare that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted in the moſt honourable manner, was it avowed by the College, that the Royal College expected and required of all other Committees, and of all its Members individually, that they ſhould act in the ſame manner whenever they had an opportunity, and endeavour to ſubvert our law of 1754, by the ſame means which Dr Spens and his Committee in 1804 had employed for that purpoſe?

Dr Wright,—I did not underſtand that it was.

16. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright underſtand that to be the meaning of the College?

Dr Wright.—I did not.

17. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright underſtand that the College did not expect, or require, or wiſh, that all its Members, individually and collectively, ſhould act in the moſt honourable manner?

Dr Wright.—The College certainly wiſhed and expected that every Member would act in the moſt honourable manner; but he did not underſtand that part of the queſtion relative to their requiring them to do ſo.

18. Dr Gregory.—If any individual of that Committee had acted in a manner directly oppoſite to that in which Dr Spens and his Committee acted on that occaſion, had objected to that interpretation of the law 1754, as being falſe, and to any attempt to repeal or pervert that law, as a breach of faith, and a violation of our charter and of that of the Surgeon-apothecaries, and, if out-voted in the Committee, had proteſted againſt their proceedings, and, inſtead of keeping the plan a ſecret, had immediately mentioned it to the different Members of the College individually, and had laid it fully before the Council and the College at their firſt meeting, or at the firſt no-

minal reading of the Committee's Report, and had declared their ſtrong diſapprobation of it, would this have been acting in a diſhonourable manner?

Dr Wright.—I don't think it would.

19. Dr Gregory.—Why would it not be diſhonourable?

Dr Wright.—It would require a very long diſcuſſion, more than I am maſter of at preſent, to anſwer that queſtion.

20. Dr Gregory.—Does Dr Wright underſtand that the College would have been entitled to cenſure, or to puniſh in any way, ſuch individuals, for acting in a manner directly contrary to what the College have now repeatedly declared to have been acting in the moſt honourable manner?

Dr Wright.—I will not anſwer that queſtion.

21. Dr Gregory.—Was that part of the declaration of the College, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted in the moſt honourable manner, *underſtood by Dr Wright to be only a temporary expedient, to ſave the feelings of Dr Spens and his Committee*, and to reſtore peace to the College?

Dr Wright.—*I did not underſtand it in that light.*

22. Dr Gregory.—Was Dr Wright grieved or pleaſed, or was it quite indifferent to him, to ſee ſuch violent diſſenſion break out in the College, in winter 1804 or 1805?

Dr Wright.—I was exceedingly ſorry that diſſenſions ſhould have ariſen in the College on that ſubject; *but they did not ariſe to any height till* 1805.

23. Dr Gregory.—After Dr Wright had ſeen my printed papers, did he wiſh to reſtore peace to the College?

Dr Wright.—I had every wiſh to reſtore peace to the College.

24. Dr Gregory.—When Dr Wright came to me in the afternoon of the 5th of February 1805, did he come with the benevolent intention of a peace-maker?

Dr Wright.—I had no other intention.

25. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright think this benevolent purpoſe would be promoted, or certainly fruſtrated, by informing me of that part of the declaration of the Royal College, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted in the moſt honourable manner?

Dr Wright.—I thought it would be completely fruſtrated.

26. Dr Gregory.—Was that Dr Wright's reaſon for not informing me of that part of the reſolutions of the College?

Dr Wright.—It was: I had no other.

27. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright conceive that I meant to acquieſce in ſuch a complete general contradiction of all I had asserted in my printed papers, as that which is implied in that part of the Reſolution of the Royal College, 1805, which declares, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted in the moſt honourable manner?

Dr Wright.—I conceived both then and now, that he would not acquieſce.

28. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright know, from reading my Cenſorian Letter, p. 3. and 120. that I was ready, and eagerly deſirous to acknowledge

ledge and correct any unintended errors, if any ſuch could be pointed out to me in my printed papers, and that I was equally willing to vindicate and anſwer for, publicly and judicially, any ſuppoſed wilful wrong or falſehood, which any of my Brethren might think they found in thoſe papers?

Dr Wright—He was ready and willing to do ſo.

29. Dr Gregory.—At that meeting of the Royal College, or at the meeting of the Council the day before, were any particular paſſages or aſſertions in my printed papers taken notice of, as either unintentionally erroneous or wilfully falſe?

Dr Wright.—I do not recollect that there was any mention of any particular paſſages.

Queſtion by the Preſident.

30. Dr Stuart.—Does Dr Wright recollect whether any mention, at that meeting of the Council or College, was made of Dr Gregory's name, or of any of his printed papers whatever?

Dr Wright.—My memory does not ſerve me to ſay any thing about it.

Queſtions by Dr Gregory continued.

31. Dr Gregory.—Did any ſuch aſſertions, which to him appeared either unintentionally erroneous or wilfully falſe, occur to him on reading my printed papers?

Dr Wright.—Nothing of that ſort occurred to me.

32. Dr Gregory.—If not, is it poſſible that the whole of theſe papers ſhould be falſe, unleſs ſome or many very glaring paſſages of them were ſo?

Dr Wright.—I think not.

Queſtions by Dr Hope.

33. Dr Hope.—Does Dr Wright think that he has underſtood, and is aware of the full import and bearing of all the queſtions now put by Dr Gregory, and of the anſwers he has given?

Dr Wright.—I do.

34. Dr Hope.—Was Dr Wright preſent at the meeting of the Council held previous to the meeting of the College, Feb. 5. 1805.

Dr Wright.—I was.

35. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright then hear the reſolutions that were to be recommended by the Council to the College on the ſucceeding day?

Dr Wright.—I heard them.

36. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright give his vote for adopting theſe reſolutions at the meeting of the College, Feb. 1805?

Dr Wright.—I did.

37. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright, who was Vice-Preſident, take the chair previous to the paſſing of theſe reſolutions?

Dr

Dr Wright.—I did.

38. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright pronounce theſe reſolutions twice, firſt to the Preſident, and then to the Committee?

Dr Wright.—I did.

39. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright wait on Dr Gregory on the evenings of the days of the meetings of the Council and of the College?

Dr Wright.—I think I did.

40. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright go to give Dr Gregory information of the proceedings of the College?

Dr Wright.—Only in part.

41. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright go with the view of giving a full account of the proceedings of the College to Dr Gregory?

Dr Wright.—I did not go with the view of giving him a full account of the proceedings of the College on that day.

Questions by Dr Stuart.

42. Dr Steuart.—What purpoſe does Dr Wright think a partial ſtatement to be given by him of the proceedings of the College, could ſerve?

Dr Wright.—If I had given him a full account, *he would have been irritated more than he was, and I did not find him in that frame and temper of mind to bear such an account as I could have given him.*

43. Dr Stuart.—Did not Dr Gregory ſay to Dr Wright, when he gave him this partial ſtatement of the proceedings of the College, that if he had been preſent at that meeting, he would himſelf have joined in the vote of the College?

Dr Wright.—*I never underſtood that Dr Gregory would have done ſo, and I did not think he would have joined in it.*

Question by Dr Hope.

44. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright wiſh to impreſs Dr Gregory with the belief, that the College had paſſed a cenſure on the Preſident and Committee by their reſolutions?

Dr Wright.—I had no ſuch wiſh.

Questions by Dr Stuart.

45. Dr Stuart.—Did Dr Wright think that Dr Gregory conceived his communication to expreſs a cenſure?

Dr Wright.—No.

46. Dr Stuart.—Did Dr Wright conceive that Dr Gregory did not underſtand, from what he ſaid, that the College had voted the Committee to have acted in an honourable manner?

Dr Wright.—I conceived he did not.

Questions by Dr Hope.

47. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Gregory receive the intimation as a matter of indifference?

Dr

Dr Wright.—*He did receive it as a matter of indifference.*

48. Dr Hope.—Why did Dr Wright think that Dr Gregory was not in a frame of mind to receive the full communication?

Dr Wright.—I decline anſwering that queſtion.

49. Dr Hope.—Has Dr Wright found Dr Gregory in a frame of mind ſince that period, fit for receiving that comunication?

Dr Wright.—Whether he was in a frame of mind or not to receive it, he knows not, but he never communicated it to him?

Questions by Dr Stuart.

50. Dr Stuart.—Whether were you not very much diſappointed at finding Dr Gregory treat the information which you gave him, as a matter of indifference?

Dr Wright.—I was not.

51. Dr Stuart.—What purpoſe then, will Dr Wright ſay, could his information ſerve?

Dr Wright.—I decline anſwering that queſtion.

Questions by Dr Hope.

52. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright think, that the information he gave of the reſolutions of the College, amounted to a full acquittal of the Committee?

Dr Wright.—I ſhall not anſwer that queſtion.

53. Dr Hope.—Does Dr Wright think, that in the caſual framing of the reſolutions, if the College had formally, through the Preſident, returned their thanks to the Committee, and had declared that they had been actuated by the pureſt motives, that that would have amounted to a full acquittal of the Committee?

Dr Wright.—*I think it would.*

Question by Dr Stuart.

54. Dr Stuart.—Does Dr Wright think, that although the College had returned thanks to the Committee, and had declared that they had acted from the pureſt motives, that this was conſiſtent with their thinking that they, or ſome of them, had acted diſhonourably?

Dr Wright,—I will give no anſwer to that queſtion.

Questions by Dr Hope.

55. Dr Hope.—Did the Preſident, the Vice Preſident, and Dr Hope, call on Dr Wright on the 1ſt Dec. 1807?

Dr Wright.—They did.

56. Dr Hope.—Did the Preſident aſk Dr Wright, if Dr Wright had informed Dr Gregory of the reſolutions of the College on February 5. 1805?

Dr Wright.—He did.

57. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright declare to theſe Gentlemen, that he had informed Dr Gregory of theſe reſolutions?

Dr Wright.—I ſaid I believe, and I think I did, but it was only from recollection,

58. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright inform theſe three Gentlemen, that he had acquainted Dr Gregory, that the College had completely acquitted the Committee?

Dr Wright.—*I believe, and think I did*, but it was only from recollection.

59. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright declare to theſe Gentlemen, that he had informed Dr Gregory, that the Committee had acted quite honourably?

Dr Wright.—Same anſwer as two preceding.

Questions by Dr Stuart.

60. Dr Stuart.—Were the words in which Dr Wright expreſſed himſelf, ſuggeſted to him by theſe Gentlemen, or altogether ſpontaneous and unforced?

Dr Wright.—In part ſuggeſted to me by theſe Gentlemen *.

61. Dr Stuart.—Did any of them addreſs Dr Wright upon this ſubject, previous to his having given this anſwer, but the Preſident alone?

Dr Wright.—I cannot be correct upon that ſubject.

62. Dr Stuart.—Will Dr Wright be pleaſed to ſay what language theſe Gentlemen uſed, which ſuggeſted theſe replies by Dr Wright?

Dr Wright.—If I were to ſay any thing, I ſuppoſe I would not be correct, and therefore decline anſwering it.

Questions by Dr Hope.

63. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Hope and Dr Spens wait on Dr Wright on the 3d of December, and ſhow him a paper, in which were written the words made uſe of by him in preſence of the Preſident, Vice-Preſident, and Dr Hope, on the 1ſt?

Dr Wright.—They did put that paper into my hands, and without giving it due conſideration, I certified that that ſtatement was correct from the beſt of my recollection.

64. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright, after reading that paper, requeſt permiſſion to take a copy of it, and did take a copy of it *before* he wrote the following declaration at the foot of it? The declaration is, "I declare, that the above ſtatement is, to the beſt of my recollection, correct."

Dr Wright.—I took a copy of it *after* I had written that declaration †.

Questions by Dr Duncan sen.

65. Dr Duncan ſen.—When Dr Wright, on the 5th of November 1805, informed Dr Gregory that the College had paſſed a vote reſpecting Dr Spens, and declaring that his conduct had proceeded from the pureſt motives, did Dr Wright imagine, that Dr Gregory would not conſult the Minutes of the College

* *Vide* Declaration of Drs Stuart, Spens, and Hope, App. p. 18.

† The Statement and Declaration will be ſeen, p. 57. of Narrative.

College to know what was really done, but would be contented with this partial information for a year and nine months?

Dr Wright.—He ſhowed no curiosity to be farther informed.

66. Dr Duncan ſen.—What does Dr Wright ſuppoſe could have prevented Dr Gregory from taking the proper method of knowing what was really done in the College reſpecting Dr Spens?

Dr Wright.—I know of nothing that prevented him getting that information.

Question by Dr Gregory.

67. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright underſtand that I believed the account that he gave me to be the whole truth, and that I was ſatisfied with it?

Dr Wright.—Yes.

Question by Dr Duncan ſen.

68. Dr Duncan ſen.—When Dr Wright ſuppoſed that Dr Gregory believed that the partial account he had given him was the whole of what paſſed in the College, why did he not undeceive Dr Gregory by telling him the whole truth at that time?

Dr Wright.—I decline anſwering that queſtion.

Question by Dr Gregory.

69. Dr Gregory.—Did Dr Wright underſtand, that if he had told me the whole truth, it would have excited me to further and violent diſcuſſions with the College according to what is ſtated in the 120th page of my Cenſorian Letter?

Dr Wright.—I think it would.

Question by Dr Stuart.

70. Dr Stuart.—Does Dr Wright think, that the terms in which he related the proceedings of the College on 5th Feb. to Dr Gregory were calculated, or did he intend by them, to lead him to believe that it was a full account of their proceedings?

Dr Wright.—I give no anſwer to that queſtion.

Questions by Dr Duncan senior.

71. Dr Duncan ſen.—When Dr Wright informed Dr Gregory, that Dr Spens had acted from the pureſt motives, What did he conceive was meant by the word pureſt? Did he ſuppoſe that Dr Spens's motive was the pure love of gain, or that it was perfectly free from every thing diſhonourable?

Dr Wright.—I decline anſwering that queſtion.

72. Dr Duncan ſen.—As Dr Wright has ſaid that he knows no erroneous facts in the Cenſorian Letter, did Dr Wright ſuppoſe that Dr Gregory was in the right, when he attempted to prove in that Letter, that Dr Spens had appointed a packed Committee to obtain a repeal of the act 1754, in a clandeſtine manner?

Dr

Dr Wright.—I give no opinion upon that head.

73. Dr Duncan ſen.—Did Dr Wright think, that the Committee wanted to get the act 1754 repealed or altered in a clandeſtine manner?

Dr Wright,—I decline anſwering that queſtion.

Queſtion by Dr Hope.

74. Dr Hope.—Has Dr Wright had any communication with any Member of the College upon the ſubject, ſince the viſit of the Preſident and Vice-Preſident and Dr Hope?

Dr Wright.—No.

Queſtions by Dr Brown.

75. Dr Brown.—Did Dr Wright, after giving his ſignature to the paper which he had been requeſted to ſubſcribe, with reſpect to the communications which he had made to Dr Gregory on the evenings of the 4th and 5th February, diſcover notes which he had made of theſe communications, written at the time or ſoon after it?

Dr Wright.—*I diſcovered ſuch notes on the morning of the 3d December* 1807, *immediately after breakfaſt.*

76. Dr Brown.—Were theſe notes written very ſoon after the converſation with Dr Gregory?

Dr Wright.—The notes of the 5th Feb. 1805, were written a few days after the meeting of the College, on little ſcraps of paper.

77. Dr Brown.—Did he find ſuch notes to juſtify him, in aſſerting that he communicated to Dr Gregory, only that part of the vote of the College of 5th February which related to the motives of the Committee for reviſing the laws, and not that part of it which related to their actual conduct?

Dr Wright. I did.

78. Dr Brown.—Did he on that account, and on that account only, wiſh to withdraw from the hands of Dr Hope, and of the other Members who had waited on him, the paper which he had given them at their requeſt, as being no longer that which he could conſider as giving an accurate ſtatement of the communications he had made to Dr Gregory?

Dr Wright.—Solely on that account.

79. Dr Brown.—Did Dr Hope refuſe to permit you to withdraw it, aſſigning as a reaſon that it was already tabled?

Dr Wright.—He did.

80. Dr Brown.—At the time of this refuſal, had there been any meeting of the College, at which it could be regularly tabled?

Dr Wright.—There had been no ſuch meeting, but the Members were juſt coming in to it.

Queſtions by Dr Hope.

81. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright ſtate to Dr Hope, the reaſons for withdrawing it, which are ſtated in a former anſwer, viz. that he had found, from

from a perusal of notes, subsequent to the signing of that paper, that the statement contained in it was incorrect?

Dr Wright.—No. Dr Hope gave me no time for it, he took his seat.

82. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Hope say he had already tabled that paper, or was about to table it?

Dr Wright.—He told me that paper was tabled.

Questions by Dr Stuart.

83. Dr Stuart.—Does Dr Wright think, that those notes which he discovered written by him, subsequent to his waiting on Dr Gregory in February 1805, are legible by any of the College?

Dr Wright.—No.

84. Dr Stuart.—Would Dr Wright be inclined to produce them as they are?

Dr Wright.—No.

85. Dr Stuart.—Will Dr Wright engage to preserve them in existence?

Dr Wright.—That I shall not.

Question by Dr Home.

86. Dr Home.—Has Dr Wright been in the habit of writing an account, or of preserving notes of the transactions of the College of Physicians?

Dr Wright.—Not constantly.

Question by Dr Duncan sen.

87. Dr Duncan sen.—After Dr Wright discovered these notes, did he immediately communicate that discovery to the President, or did he communicate it to him at any time prior to this meeting of the College?

Dr Wright.—I did not immediately communicate it, and had no opportunity of doing so, till I saw the President at the election-meeting.

Questions by Dr Hope.

88. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright express any wish at the election-dinner to Dr Stuart, or had he any wish, at that time, to withdraw the statement which he had signed?

Dr Wright.—I had every wish to withdraw it.

89. Dr Hope.—Did this wish proceed from the same motives which induced him to desire to withdraw it, when he applied to Dr Hope on the meeting of Saturday the 5th?

Dr Wright.—The same.

90. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright sit next to Dr Hope at the election-dinner?

Dr Wright.—I did.

91. Dr Hope.—Did Dr Wright ſpeak to Dr Hope upon the ſubject, or expreſs any wiſh of withdrawing the ſtatement which he had ſigned that morning?

Dr Wright.—No.

DECLARATION by Drs STUART, SPENS, and HOPE, referred to p. 14. of Appendix.

As DR WRIGHT, in an anſwer to one of the queſtions propoſed to him by Dr Stuart, at the extraordinary meeting of the College on the 19th of December 1807, has affirmed, that the words in which he, Dr Wright, expreſſed himſelf, in regard to the information he had given Dr Gregory, as ſtated in the document ſigned by Dr Wright, now in the hands of the Clerk, were in part ſuggeſted to him by the Gentlemen to whom he made the declaration contained in that document; We conſider it to be our duty to the College to declare, that this affirmation by Dr Wright is incorrect; the following being, if not the preciſe words, very nearly ſo, and certainly the preciſe purport, and the whole of the expreſſions or queſtions uſed by Dr Stuart, who alone addreſſed Dr Wright on the ſubject.

After being ſeated, Dr Stuart aſked Dr Wright, if he had not informed Dr Gregory of the reſolution of the College of 5th February, 1805?

Upon Dr Wright's anſwering that he had, Dr Stuart further ſaid, What did you tell him?

The declaration was then given as ſtated and certified in the ſaid document; nothing more having been previouſly ſaid.

Edinburgh, Feb. 2. 1808. (Signed) CHA. STUART. TH. SPENS. THOS. CHAS. HOPE.

It is impoſſible for any one who conſiders Dr Wright's ſpeech and examination, to avoid being impreſſed with the conviction, that the ſtatement given to Drs Stuart, Spens and Hope, is more correct than any part of the ſtory contained in his other replies. He had particular occaſion to be well acquainted with the tenor of the reſolution, as has been already mentioned; and, previous to ſigning the ſtatement, his attention had been ſtrongly directed to the terms and extent of his communication to Dr Gregory, both by the diſcuſſions in the College, and by the viſit of Drs Stuart, Spens and Hope. Though the *ipsissima verba* of the reſolution might have eſcaped his

his memory, it is perfectly incredible that, if he had gone to Dr Gregory for the purpoſe of giving him an imperfect and incorrect account of the reſolution, he could have forgotten ſo very ſingular and unjuſtifiable a proceeding: or, if he had gone with the intention of making a full communication, but had found that the information he gave provoked and irritated Dr Gregory ſo much as to deter him from telling the whole truth, it is not likely that ſuch an occurrence could have eſcaped his memory. What renders the ſtory the more improbable, is, that the part of the Reſolution which he ſays he did communicate, was as much calculated to excite the wrath of Dr Gregory, as that part which he ſays he withheld.

Dr Wright however ſtates, that his memory had deceived him; and that he found *notes and memorandums* which ſhowed him his error.

The College cannot help feeling conſiderable difficulty in believing this account. If Dr Wright had actually made a diſcovery of notes, from which he aſcertained that the teſtimony which he had given and ſubſcribed was erroneous, why did he delay an inſtant in carrying them to thoſe who were in poſſeſſion of his ſtatement, as well for his own vindication as to repair the injury he had done his friend? It was not even neceſſary for him to be at the trouble of calling on them. He met them the ſame day at the election dinner, to which Dr Wright ſays he went, in hopes of ſetting matters to rights: and he actually ſat next to Dr Hope; but not a word on the ſubject eſcaped him. He was equally ſilent reſpecting the diſcovery of the notes to Dr Stuart and Dr Spens; and he remained ſilent on the ſubject above a fortnight longer; for the diſcovery was not announced till he read his ſpeech at the meeting of the College on the 19th December.

The doubts created by this conduct were much ſtrengthened, when Dr Wright, in his examination, declared that the ſaid notes were not legible by any member of the College,—when he declined to produce them as they were,—and even refuſed, and that very peremptorily, to engage to preſerve them in exiſtence.

As Dr Wright could not be ignorant of the ſcepticiſm reſpecting the exiſtence of theſe notes, and as he ſaw how much uſe Dr Gregory had made in his defence of his retractation, it was reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that, if they really exiſted; he would have produced them on the day when the College met to diſcuſs the accuſation againſt Dr Gregory. Their production was of ſome conſequence to Dr Gregory, and abſolutely neceſſary to diſpel the doubts in which Dr Wright's veracity was involved in regard to this retractation. Still, however, they were withheld from the College. In ſhort, there were the moſt cogent reaſons for producing the notes, if in exiſtence; and it is impoſſible to imagine any good reaſon for withholding them.

With reſpect to theſe notes, the College muſt alſo obſerve, that it is impoſſible they could have been found at the *time* ſtated by Dr Wright for their diſcovery. Dr Wright ſays, '*Next day, 2d December*, Dr Spens and Dr Hope came to my houſe *in the forenoon*. On diſcovering my notes and memorandums *on the morning of the 3d December*, I ſaw how much my recol-

lection

lection had failed me!—how much I was deceived and miſtaken! I went to dine with the College that day, and was in hopes I could ſet that matter to rights,' &c. 'I diſcovered ſuch notes on the morning of the 3d December 1807, *immediately after breakfast.*'

Dr Wright here expreſsly ſtates, that he ſubſcribed his declaration on the forenoon of the 2d December, and that he found the notes on the morning of the 3d December, *immediately after breakfast.* But the fact is, that Drs Spens and Hope did *not* pay their ſecond viſit, and Dr Wright did *not* ſubſcribe his declaration, on the *2d December*, as he avers. It was *on the forenoon of the 3d*, ſoon after the election, that theſe gentlemen went away from the Hall, and waited on Dr Wright. As, therefore, Dr Wright did not ſubſcribe his declaration on the 2d, but *on the forenoon of the 3d* December, it is evident that, if notes were actually diſcovered, the diſcovery muſt have been made, not *subsequent*, but *previous* to his certifying the accuracy of the declaration; and, of courſe, that he certified the correctneſs of the ſtatement after he knew that it was incorrect. It is impoſſible that he could have found them any time ſubſequent to the 3d; becauſe he expreſsly ſays that, in conſequence of the diſcovery, he went to the election dinner to ſet matters to rights; and that dinner was certainly on the 3d December.—The concluſion, therefore, is irreſiſtible, that the notes could not have been diſcovered as ſpecified by Dr Wright; and, putting all the circumſtances together reſpecting them, their diſcovery muſt appear abſolutely impoſſible.

The improbable ſtory, however, of theſe notes, is not the only circumſtance which led the College to imagine that Dr Wright was willing to ſacrifice not a little to his friendſhip for Dr Gregory, and to his anxiety to defend him. Both in his written ſpeech and in his *viva voce* evidence, he gave various ſtatements of facts by no means correct, and ſhaped his anſwers as much as poſſible to ſerve the cauſe of Dr Gregory. The following are ſome examples of theſe.

1*mo*, The account which Dr Wright gave, in his ſpeech, of what paſſed at the interview between him and Drs Stuart, Spens and Hope, on the 1ſt of December, was not conſiſtent with truth. Dr Stuart put no *leading* queſtion to Dr Wright; he was on his guard againſt doing ſo; and he is ready, if neceſſary, to depone, that he merely requeſted to know whether he had informed Dr Gregory of the reſolution of February 1805, and what information he had given him. Dr Wright replied at once, and without heſitation, 'that he had; and that he told Dr Gregory that the College had completely acquitted the Committee, and had declared that they had acted quite honourably.' Dr Wright, however, in the ſaid ſpeech aſſerts, that Dr Stuart put the leading queſtion to him, 'Do you recollect telling Dr Gregory of the reſolution of the College, and of their having acquitted Dr Spens and his Committee honourably?' and that he anſwered in the following vague terms, 'O yes, I think I did, I believe I did, and that I had told him in a general way what had been done.' Independent of the declaration

declaration of Drs Stuart, Spens and Hope (p. 18.), no one can believe that Dr Wright's recollection of what paſſed on the 1ſt December could be more freſh and correct on the 19th, when he read his ſpeech, than it was on the 3d, when he certified the correctneſs of the ſtatement: and ſeeing he was in poſſeſſion of a copy of the ſtatement, taken by himſelf on the 3d, his incorrect account of this interview could not have proceeded from want of recollection, but muſt have been intentional.

2*do*, Dr Wright, in his retracting ſpeech, aſſerts, that having diſcovered his notes on the morning of the 3d, and having gone the ſame day to the election dinner, in hopes to ſet that matter to rights, he had no opportunity of ſpeaking to Dr Hope, until the 5th December, when the members were aſſembling for the meeting of the College. What opinion can the reader form of the fidelity of Dr Wright's ſtatements, when he is informed, that ſo far from having had no opportunity of ſpeaking to Dr Hope during the two days between the 3d and 5th, he actually ſat next to Dr Hope during the whole time of the election dinner? Beſides, he certainly might have found many opportunities to ſpeak to Dr Hope, or to Dr Stuart or Dr Spens, during the courſe of theſe two days.

3*tio*, In the ſame ſpeech, he aſſerts that he had reported to Dr Gregory, that the reſolution of February 1805 was propoſed, in order to ſave the feelings of Dr Spens. But within an hour thereafter, when publicly and formally interrogated upon this point by Dr Gregory, he contradicts his own aſſertion in the moſt pointed manner. No. 21. Queſtion by Dr Gregory.—'Was that part of the declaration of the College, that Dr Spens and his Committee had acted in the moſt honourable manner, underſtood by Dr Wright to be only a temporary expedient to *save the feelings* of Dr Spens and his Committee, and to reſtore peace to the College?'

Anſwer by Dr Wright.—'I did *not* underſtand it in that light.'

4*to*, Dr Wright, in his retracting ſpeech, ſays, that having informed Dr Gregory, of the College having returned thanks to Dr Spens and his Committee, and expreſſed their conviction that they had acted from the pureſt motives, 'Here I ſtopt;—more than this I did not report to Dr Gregory,' &c. In this inſtance, Dr Gregory himſelf has been obliged to point out the error of the aſſertion. (Def. p. 356.)—Dr Gregory ſays that Dr Wright had reported to him a great deal more of the proceedings of the College on that day, and exerts his ingenuity to find an apology for this inaccuracy.

Every one who takes the trouble to peruſe attentively the replies given by Dr Wright on the 19th December, muſt perceive the earneſt wiſh which he betrays to make theſe replies correſpond with the ſentiments and ſtate of facts maintained by Dr Gregory, and at the ſame time muſt diſcover the glaring inconſiſtencies into which he falls. He will find him at one time declaring, that Dr Gregory received his information reſpecting the reſolution of the College *with indifference* (*Vid.* Ans. to Quest. No. 47.); at another time, that Dr Gregory was not in a frame and temper of mind to bear ſuch an account

as

as he could have given him; and that if he had given him the full account, he would have been more irritated than he was. (*Vid.* Ans. to Quest. 42.)—At one time he declares, that he remembers very well, Dr Gregory, on hearing the articles of the reſolution reſpecting thanks and motives, ſaying, 'If that be all, I ſhould agree to it, or concur in it, if I were at the College; or words to that effect.' (Ans. to Quest. 2.)—At another, in reply to a queſtion by Dr Stuart (No. 43.), he declares, 'that he never underſtood Dr Gregory would have done ſo, and did not think he would have joined in it.' It will alſo be ſeen, that Dr Wright, blind to every other conſideration, went ſo far to meet the wiſhes of Dr Gregory in theſe replies, as to declare, that though well acquainted with the tenor of the Rev. & Cens. Lett., he never underſtood that Dr Gregory, in thoſe publications, blamed the motives of the Committee for reviſing the laws. (*Vid.* Ans. to Quest. 8.)—Nothing, ſurely, can more fully demonſtrate the ſincerity of that tender of his ſervices which Dr Wright made to Dr Gregory, in his letter publiſhed p. 453. of the Defence, and which Dr Wright ſtrongly expreſſed in the ſignificant words, *me tuum facias*. Of this unconditional offer, it will probably be thought, that the whole of Dr Wright's conduct has been a copious and clear illuſtration. As Dr Wright has avowed, that he deſignedly and intentionally gave Dr Gregory an imperfect and inaccurate account of the reſolution, the obvious inference is, that, on ſome occaſions at leaſt, he thinks that truth may be ſuppreſſed, or even ſacrificed.

Such being Dr Wright's ſentiments, the reader cannot be ſurpriſed, that in order to ſcreen Dr Gregory, he had formerly retracted, upon *falſe allegations*, a vote deliberately and ſolemnly given in preſence of the College;—that he has poſitively alleged, as the ground for withdrawing and contradicting the ſtatement he gave to Dr Stuart, Dr Spens, and Dr Hope, that he had found notes which he has refuſed to ſhow, or even to preſerve, and which could not poſſibly have been found at the time ſpecified by him;—and that, in the ſpeech explanatory of this retractation, he has made many aſſertions inconſiſtent with truth. But he muſt be not a little ſurpriſed, that Dr Gregory has (Def. p. 349, &c.), in the moſt unqualified manner, paſſed a flattering eulogy on all this conduct of Dr Wright, ſtyling him, '*Gentilhomme, toujours Gentilhomme;*' calling him his '*venerable* friend;' and aſſerting that he had formed 'the manly and deciſive reſolution of telling the whole truth.' Dr Gregory has, indeed, ſeen the neceſſity for a little explanation of ſome of Dr Wright's inconſiſtencies, and has accordingly apologized for ſome of his inaccuracies. One explanation with regard to himſelf, however, ſtill remains, which is to account for the extraordinary fact, of his having overlooked the improbabilities and impoſſibilities of Dr Wright's ſtory.

Notwithſtanding the circumſtances under which Dr Wright's contradiction of his preceding teſtimony was made, the College gave full weight to it.

it. In finding Dr Gregory guilty of deliberate falſehood, they were not in the ſmalleſt degree influenced by that part of Dr Wright's firſt and frank declaration, from which he afterwards departed. To eſtabliſh the violation of truth, it was not neceſſary to prove that Dr Gregory knew the whole reſolution. He had denied, in the moſt broad and unequivocal manner, *all* knowledge of it; and the evidence was complete, that he was well acquainted with at leaſt two of the three articles of which it conſiſts.

With regard to Dr Wright, the College ſhall only add, that in conſequence of his having preſented a proteſt againſt the deciſion of the College on the 13th of September, expreſſed in the moſt diſreſpectful and improper terms, he was, at the quarterly meeting in May laſt, ſuſpended from voting in the College, or ſitting in any of its meetings, until he make a ſatisfactory apology.

APPENDIX, No. II.

GROUNDS *of* DOUBT *reſpecting the* PURPORT *and* EXTENT *of the* BY-LAW 1754, *entertained by the Committee for reviſing the Laws, drawn up by them, and inſerted at their requeſt.*

The profeſſion of Medicine is, in this iſland, uſually divided into three diſtinct branches, Phyſic, Surgery and Pharmacy. The name of Apothecary is given to the perſon who exerciſes the laſt of theſe; and his buſineſs conſiſts in keeping, for public ſale, drugs of every kind, and in preparing and compounding theſe, according as they are preſcribed for the cure of diſeaſes. Without engaging in pharmacy as a trade or profeſſion, it has long been the cuſtom, over the whole of Scotland, for many phyſicians, and, without exception, for all ſurgeons, to keep in their own houſes a ſtore of medicines for the ſole uſe of their own patients, which they prepare and diſpenſe as occaſion requires. The main object of this partial connexion of the phyſician or ſurgeon with the profeſſion of an apothecary, is to facilitate the performance of the duties of his own proper department; and while the practitioner, by furniſhing the medicines which he preſcribes, is himſelf certain that the medicines are genuine, good, and properly prepared, he ſecures to the patient the ſatisfaction of knowing that he gets the very articles that are ordered for him. Any profit on the arti-

cles

cles themſelves, is, in the large towns, and among the more reſpectable members of the profeſſion, a matter of trifling conſideration.

The opinion was generally entertained in the College, that the by-law of 1754 not only prevented the members of the College, whether Licentiates or Fellows, from conjoining the profeſſion of Pharmacy, or the trade of the Apothecary, with that of Phyſic, but alſo forbade this limited connexion, and debarred them even from furniſhing medicines to their own patients. An attentive conſideration of the enactment itſelf, and of various collateral circumſtances, created doubts in the minds of the Committee, while engaged in reviſing the laws, whether the words of the act 1754 do abſolutely and unequivocally bear that extenſive interpretation, and whether the terms do really interdict that limited connexion. The following detail contains the grounds of thoſe doubts.

It appears, from the records of the College, to have been a common practice, previous to the year 1750, for perſons who had obtained the degree of M. D., to exerciſe likewiſe the employment of Surgeon or Apothecary, or both. But, at that period, ſome members wiſhed to put a ſtop to this practice; and, on the 6th of February 1750, " repreſented, that it has been too much the cuſtom of late years, for ſome perſons who have taken the degree of M. D., to exerciſe likewiſe the employment of Surgeon or Apothecary, or both; which practice they eſteemed *derogatory to the honour and dignity of the profeſſion of Phyſic*, as well as prejudicial to the public good: And having therefore moved, that the College would take the ſame into their conſideration, and appoint a Committee to bring in, againſt next meeting, a draught of an act, whereby this abuſe might for the future be more effectually diſcouraged, the College did unanimouſly reſolve, that ſuch an act ſhould be drawn up; and appointed a Committee for that purpoſe." The following is a copy of the act adopted on the 6th November 1750.

" The Royal College of Phyſicians of Edinburgh, being determined to *ſupport the honour and dignity of the profeſſion of Phyſic in this place*, and to conſult the utility and good of the public, do unanimouſly declare againſt the abuſe of joining the profeſſion of Phyſic with the employment of Surgeon or Apothecary; and hereby enact, that no perſon who is a member of the Incorporation of Surgeons or Apothecaries, or who keeps a ſhop for diſpenſing of medicines, ſhall hereafter be admitted a Fellow of the College: And further enact, that if any perſon who is at preſent, or ſhall hereafter become a Fellow of the ſaid College, ſhall, after his admiſſion, enter with the Incorporation of Surgeon-Apothecaries, or ſet up a ſhop for diſpenſing of medicines, the thing being notour, ſuch perſon ſhall, *ipſo facto*, forfeit all the privileges and immunities which he did or might enjoy as a Fellow of the ſaid College, and his name ſhall be expunged out of the roll of Fellows; and appoint this act to be read to every Licentiate of the College when he is admitted a Fellow, that he may not pretend ignorance thereof."

By

By this ſtatute, the Fellows of the College were prevented from conjoining the profeſſion of Phyſic with the employment of Surgeon or Apothecary.

In 1753, it appears that the College wiſhed to increaſe the fees to be paid by all future Licentiates; and, on the 7th Auguſt, they remitted to a Committee "to conſider how far it may be adviſeable to augment the fees to be paid to the College by any future Licentiates, and to report their opinion againſt next meeting."

The Committee thus appointed to conſider of the propriety of increaſing the admiſſion-fee of future Licentiates, were anxious either to diſcourage, or turn to the profit of the College, the practice then becoming prevalent, (viz.) of *persons exercising the trade of an Apothecary in Edinburgh* becoming Phyſicians, and demanding a licenſe to practiſe Phyſic; and recommended that a triple fee ſhould be exacted from all Licentiates engaged in the practice of Pharmacy. Their report was as follows.

"*6th November*, 1753.

"The Committee appointed to conſider and report their opinion, how far it may be adviſeable to augment the fines to be paid to the College by any future Licentiates, has accordingly had this affair under their moſt ſerious attention; and conſidering,

"1*mo*, *That, of late, many gentlemen keeping Apothecaries' ſhops, and practiſing Pharmacy*, have preſented to the College diplomas in Phyſic, purchaſed or obtained from ſome of the Univerſities of this part of the kingdom, and have thereupon claimed from the College a licenſe to practiſe Medicine within this city, in the character of Phyſicians, without undergoing any trial or examination:

"2*do*, That the greater part of the Fellows of the College ſtill alive, have aſſented to, and ſubſcribed a decreet of ſeparation, wherein it is *inter alia* declared, that the employment of Surgery and Pharmacy, being two *different employments*, and *both requiring a great deal of care and knowledge*, ſhould hereafter be exerciſed, within this city of Edinburgh, and liberties thereof, by different perſons, and that one and the ſame perſon ſhould not exerciſe both employments:

"3*tio*, That their *argument againſt the conjunction of Surgery with Pharmacy, is ſtill ſtronger againſt uniting in the ſame perſon the Phyſician and Apothecary, becauſe theſe are two different occupations, either of them being ſufficient to employ any one man's whole time and attention*; and, therefore, it appears to be the intereſt of the public, that they ſhould be exerciſed ſeparately; nor can their union be judged at all neceſſary in ſo large a city as this, where thoſe who practiſe either Medicine or *Pharmacy by itſelf* find encouragement ſo to do:

"4*to*, That this appears to be the conſtant opinion of the College; becauſe, by the ſtatute, no Licentiate can be admitted Fellow, without ſubſcribing an

obligation that he ſhall not take up or keep an Apothecary's ſhop for preparing and diſpenſing medicines *to his patients;* which obligation is made an expreſs condition of his fellowſhip:

"5*to*, That it has often been ſurmiſed, and is ſuppoſed, that the ſmallneſs of the fine payable to the College by thoſe who obtain a licenſe to practiſe, has been, and may ſtill be an inducement, with ſeveral, to undertake both Phyſic and Pharmacy, and to act in this double capacity, whilſt they can for a ſmall ſum dignify the title of Apothecary, by uniting it with that of Doctor of Medicine:

"6*to*, Therefore the ſeveral Members of the Committee, with the advice and concurrence of ſome of the other Fellows of the College, are jointly of opinion, that it would tend very much to the honour, as well as to the intereſt of the College, and the good of the Lieges, to diſcourage this practice of uniting the Apothecary with the Phyſician in the ſame perſon, and that ſo good a purpoſe, in ſome meaſure, may be obtained, by augmenting the fine payable to the College by Licentiates at their admiſſion, or afterwards, in the manner following, viz. That every Doctor of Phyſic, reſiding or practiſing within this city, or liberties thereof, who does not keep an Apothecary's ſhop, nor is in any way engaged in the exerciſe of Pharmacy at the time of his application to the College, ſhall, along with his petition for being admitted a Licentiate, give in to the College his bond for 1500 merks Scots, whereof 500 merks to be paid to the Treaſurer *pro tempore*, immediately after he has received his licenſe to practiſe Phyſic; but the remaining 1000 merks ſhall be payable only at the firſt legal term after he ſhall ſet up an Apothecary's ſhop, prepare or diſpenſe medicines, or enter into copartnery with any perſon or perſons for carrying on the buſineſs of Pharmacy. But if the Doctor ſo petitioning ſhall, at the time he applies for his licenſe, be poſſeſſed of an apothecary's ſhop, or be any ways engaged in the exerciſe of Pharmacy, in this caſe the whole ſum of 1500 merks ſhall be payable inſtantly upon receiving his licenſe from the College to practiſe Medicine. *

(Signed) "JOHN RUTHERFORD, P."

From this Report it is perfectly plain, that the practice complained of, and which it was wiſhed to diſcourage, was that of perſons who kept open Apothecaries' ſhops, and exerciſed the trade and profeſſion of Pharmacy, getting from ſome Univerſity, not very ſcrupulous in the diſpoſal of their diplomas, the degree of M. D., and, after dignifying the name of Apothecary with that of Doctor of Medicine, conjoining in one perſon the two profeſſions: and it is equally clear, that what is here called Pharmacy, the conjunction

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* It is proper here to mention, that Dr Gregory has left out the last article of this Report, in the copy which he published in his Review p. 5. and Def. p. 40.; and, by the omiſsion, was enabled to give a different complexion to the object for which that Committee of 1753 was appointed, and to the measure recommended by it.

junction of which with the profeſſion of Phyſic they wiſhed to diſcourage, means the common trade of the Apothecary keeping an open ſhop and publicly ſelling drugs, and does not at all apply to the practice of Phyſicians furniſhing medicines to their own patients. The argument againſt uniting the Phyſician and Apothecary, in clauſe 3d of the Report, "becauſe theſe are two different occupations, *either* of them being ſufficient to employ any *one* man's *whole* time and attention," can unqueſtionably be applied to the occupation of the common Apothecary only: and again, in the ſame clauſe, the expreſſion "where thoſe who practiſe either Medicine or *Pharmacy by itself*, find encouragement ſo to do," moſt undoubtedly alludes to the ſeparate and diſtinct trade of Pharmacy alone. Alſo in clauſe No. 5, the practice complained of is with equal certainty deſignated to be the junction of the common Apothecary with that of Doctor of Medicine; "the Apothecary dignifying himſelf with the title of M. D." can only be conſidered as applying to the perſon publicly exerciſing that art.

Though, in all theſe clauſes, and in every expreſſion compoſing them, the Reporters unqueſtionably had in view the ſeparation of the practice of Phyſic from the profeſſion and trade of an Apothecary, the 4th clauſe, however, would lead one to ſuppoſe that their views went further, and that they wiſhed to extend the reſtriction to *Licentiates*, ſo as to prevent them alſo from having even that limited connexion which was involved in the practice of furniſhing medicines to their own patients; ſtating, in favour of their argument, that the Fellows were debarred from that practice by the ſtatute of 1750. "That this appears to be the conſtant opinion of the College; becauſe, by the ſtatute, no Licentiate can be admitted Fellow, without ſubſcribing an obligation, that he ſhall not take up, or keep, an Apothecary's ſhop, for preparing and diſpenſing medicines *to his patients;* which obligation is made an expreſs condition of his Fellowſhip."

It is very remarkable, that the *ſtatute* is here erroneouſly quoted; and the very important words, "*to his patients*," ſubjoined to "diſpenſing medicines," which give a more extenſive and very different meaning to the expreſſion, are in fact an interpolation.

As the object for which the Committee in 1753 had been appointed, was to conſider the propriety of improving the funds, by raiſing the license fee; in the concluſion of their report they recommend, that not only all Phyſicians who kept Apothecaries' ſhops, but likewiſe all thoſe who were *any ways* engaged in the exerciſe of Pharmacy, ſhould pay a license fee three times as large as thoſe who had no concern whatever with Pharmacy.

The College were willing to have adopted the mode of improving the funds propoſed in this report, but prudently conſulted Counſel reſpecting their powers to enforce ſuch a meaſure. Counſel apprized them of the illegality of exacting different admiſſion fees from perſons all equally entitled to claim a license to practiſe; but at the ſame time ſuggeſted, that if the College wiſhed to diſcourage the union of the profeſſions of Phyſic and

Pharmacy, and *if such* a combination were unfavourable to the advancement of medical knowledge, and hurtful and dangerous to the public ſafety, that, in that caſe, the College were entitled to enact a by-law, enjoining and enforcing the ſeparation of them. The College, upon this opinion and advice, paſſed the by-law of 1754, or enactment, as it is often called, which is in the following terms.

" The Royal College of Phyſicians in Edinburgh, taking into their ſerious conſideration the truſt repoſed in them by their Charter of Erection, to watch over the practice of Phyſic within the city of Edinburgh and its liberties, and the full power veſted in them by the ſaid charter, ratified by act of Parliament, of making ſuch acts and regulations as may contibute to promote the knowledge and practice of Medicine, and for the good government of the Fellows of the ſaid College, and of all others practiſing Phyſic within the ſaid city and its liberties: And alſo conſidering that an innovation and abuſe has been lately introduced into the manner of practiſing Phyſic within this city and its liberties, whereby ſome Phyſicians licenſed and authorized by the ſaid Royal College to practiſe Phyſic, have alſo acted as Apothecaries, by keeping or ſetting up Apothecaries' ſhops, and thereby conjoining the profeſſion of Medicine and Pharmacy in one and the ſame perſon: And the ſaid Royal College further conſidering, that this innovation and abuſe tend to hinder the advancement of the knowledge of Medicine, and may prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of this city, and of the liberties thereof: They, by theſe preſents, enact and ordain, that from and after the eleventh day of April one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four years, no Member of the College, nor any Phyſician by them licenſed and authorized to practiſe Phyſic within the ſaid city and its liberties, ſhall take upon himſelf to uſe the employment of an Apothecary, or to have or keep an Apothecary's ſhop, by himſelf, his partners or his ſervants: And in caſe any ſuch Phyſician ſhall do in the contrary, and ſhall thereof be lawfully convicted, he ſhall forfeit from thenceforth his right of Fellowſhip and his right and title to practiſe Phyſic within the city of Edinburgh and its liberties.

" And for preventing the like abuſe in time coming, it is hereby enacted and ordained, that from and after the ſaid eleventh day of April one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four, all and every Phyſician, whether having received his degrees in Scotland, or in any foreign Univerſity, applying to the ſaid College for a licenſe to practiſe Phyſic in the city of Edinburgh, and liberties thereof, ſhall previouſly enact and oblige himſelf not to ſet up an Apothecary's ſhop, nor to practiſe Pharmacy, by himſelf, copartners, or ſervants; and with this condition, that if at any time thereafter he ſhall contravene, by taking up an Apothecary's ſhop, and practiſing Pharmacy, by himſelf, his partners, or ſervants; he ſhall, *ipso facto*, forfeit his licenſe aforeſaid, and be liable to be proſecuted for ſuch practice, without licenſe from the ſaid Royal College, in the ſame manner as if he had never been licenſed; and that ſuch condition ſhall be engroſſed in all licenſes to be granted

granted after the ſaid eleventh day of April, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four years.

" And it is further enacted and ordained, that from and after the ſaid eleventh day of April, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four years, the ſaid Royal College, and their ſucceſſors, ſhall not grant any licenſe to any Phyſician, whether graduated in Scotland or elſewhere, to practiſe Medicine within the ſaid city or liberties, who, at the time of his application for ſuch licenſe, practiſes Pharmacy in manner above mentioned, until ſuch Phyſician give up the practice of Pharmacy, and become bound and enacted not to practiſe the ſame in any time thereafter, in manner foreſaid.

" And the ſaid Royal College ordain this act to be publicly read to every Phyſician who ſhall, after the ſaid eleventh day of April, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four years, apply to them for a licenſe to practiſe Phyſic within the city of Edinburgh and its liberties. "

A careful conſideration of the terms of this act, and eſpecially of its preamble, where the purpoſe and object of the act are ſpecified, alſo afforded very ſtrong grounds of doubt reſpecting the propriety of the common underſtanding of its purport and extent. The object againſt which the act is directly and expreſsly levelled, is " an innovation and *abuse* lately introduced into the manner of practiſing Phyſic within this City and Liberties, whereby Phyſicians licenſed and authoriſed by the ſaid Royal College to practiſe Phyſic, have alſo acted as Apothecaries, by keeping or ſetting up Apothecaries' ſhops, and *thereby conjoining the profeſſion of Medicine and Pharmacy in one and the ſame perſon.* "

On conſidering attentively the innovation and *abuse* here alluded to, and particularly the ſpecification, that it conſiſts in conjoining in the ſame perſon the profeſſion of Medicine and Pharmacy; and conſidering that this innovation and abuſe is moſt diſtinctly and unequivocally ſpecified, in the report 1753, to be that of many gentlemen who keep Apothecaries' ſhops and practiſe Pharmacy, purchaſing a degree, and then claiming a licenſe to practiſe Phyſic, and, after having dignified the character of the Apothecary with the title of M. D., exerciſing two ſeparate profeſſions, " either of which are ſufficient to employ any one man's *whole time and attention*, " it appeared perfectly clear, that the abuſe complained of, and intended to be remedied, was the junction of the Phyſician with the common Apothecary, in the common underſtanding and general acceptation of the name; and therefore, it ſeemed *extremely doubtful* whether the act extended to, and included the practice of Phyſicians furniſhing medicines to their own patients.

The doubts then ariſing were much increaſed by the conſideration of the conſequences ſtated to be apprehended from this abuſe. " And the ſaid Royal College further conſidering, that this innovation and abuſe *tend to hinder* the advancement of the knowledge of Medicine, and *may prove dangerous* to the health of the inhabitants of this City and of the Liberties thereof; they, by theſe preſents, enact, " &c.

That

That the *innovation and abuse* did here mean the junction of the two ſeparate profeſſions, the public Apothecary and the Phyſician, and did not apply to the limited and partial connexion, ſeemed to the Committee unqueſtionably clear and decided; and for this plain reaſon, viz. the pernicious conſequences here indicated may ariſe from one perſon exerciſing the two profeſſions, but cannot proceed from the practice of Phyſicians furniſhing medicines to their own patients. If a man has his attention divided between the duties of the Phyſician and the concerns of a public ſale-ſhop, the intereſts of Medicine may ſuffer; and if a perſon, exerciſing the profeſſion of an Apothecary, and keeping a public ſhop, is at the ſame time engaged in the practice of Phyſic, " it may prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of this City; " as it is not impoſſible, that, while he is performing the duties of his medical profeſſion abroad, the concerns of the open ſhop may, to the danger of the public, be neglected, or negligently performed, by his aſſiſtants or ſervants.

On the other hand, the Committee were perfectly convinced, that the practice of the Phyſicians in Edinburgh furniſhing medicines to their own patients, could in no way hinder the advancement of Medicine; but, on the contrary, might in ſome reſpects tend to improve it, particularly in the important branch of Pharmacy, by directing to this ſubject the attention of the beſt educated, and, in general, the moſt enlightened members of the medical profeſſion;—an attention more particularly demanded from the Members of the Royal College, as one of their public duties is to point out, by their Pharmacopœia, the mode of preparing the medicines kept in apothecaries' ſhops for general uſe.

The Committee ſaw, that it was perfectly impoſſible that this practice could prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of this city. Four parts out of five of the drugs uſed in Edinburgh, and nineteen out of twenty of thoſe conſumed in Scotland, are furniſhed by the practitioners who preſcribe them; and no man in his ſenſes can honeſtly allege that it would be dangerous to the health of the lieges, if the comparatively ſmall proportion preſcribed by the Phyſician were furniſhed in the ſame manner. Since, then, it is impoſſible that the practice of Phyſicians, *within the city and liberties of Edinburgh*, furniſhing medicines to their own patients, could either tend to hinder the advancement of the knowledge of Medicine, or prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of this city, *there was the ſtrongeſt ground for doubting* whether the ſaid act did extend to this practice.

Throughout the enacting clauſe, no expreſſion occurs to remove theſe doubts. The terms, *the profeſſion of an Apothecary*, and the *practice of Pharmacy*, are not defined, and are of courſe left to be underſtood in their common meaning, and in the meaning in which they are employed in the Report of the Committee in 1753.

The *doubts* reſpecting the import and extent of this act, were much confirmed by the circumſtance, that every expreſſion introduced in the preceding

ing report of 1753, which might be ſuppoſed to include this practice, is carefully omitted in the act 1754,—and, it can ſcarcely be doubted, purpoſely omitted; in particular, the interpolated words, '*to his patients*,' which would have removed every ambiguity, are entirely left out.

In the final clauſe of the ſaid report, preſented in 1753, for the ſake of ſecuring to the funds of the College the propoſed triple entrance fee from every licentiate from whom it could, under any pretence, be exacted, a ſweeping comprehenſive expreſſion is added. It is there ſaid, that all thoſe ſhall be liable to the heavy exaction, who are *anywise engaged in the exercise of Pharmacy*. Such an expreſſion introduced into the ſubſequent enactment 1754, would have rendered the purport and extent of the law clear and indiſputable. But neither it, nor any other expreſſion of a ſimilar nature, is employed; and, conſidering that theſe expreſſions were fully in the view of the College, being contained in the very report which gave riſe to the act 1754, it appeared more than probable that they had been omitted on purpoſe, as going beyond the point to which the College meant the act to extend. The matter, therefore, is unqueſtionably left, in the enactment 1754, in a degree of ambiguity, which ought not to have been, and, as the Committee conceived, would not have been the caſe, had the College intended that the terms of the enactment ſhould have clearly and decidedly comprehended the prevention of the practice in queſtion.

The doubts of the Committee were alſo much ſtrengthened by the conviction, that as no bad conſequence could poſſibly ariſe from Phyſicians furniſhing medicines to their own patients, the College had no right to impoſe any ſuch reſtraint upon graduates of Scotch Univerſities who apply for licenſes. The College is entitled to enforce any regulation neceſſary for the advancement of medical ſcience, or the ſafety of the lieges; but their charter obliges them to grant licenſes to ſuch graduates, without any further reſtriction. "Et dictum Medicorum Collegium, more prædicto erigendum, per præſentes obligatur quemvis hominem ſeu homines in dictis Univerſitatibus laurea doctorandis, abſque quovis prævio ſeu antecedente examine, ſed *solummodo ad ipsorum diplomatis, seu ad gradus admissionis Praesidi dicti Medicorum Collegii productionem licentiare.*"

In 1761, ſome very important proceedings took place, which exhibit in the cleareſt manner the light in which the College viewed the object of the act 1754, and which, in a ſpecial manner, confirm the doubts entertained by the Committee reſpecting the purport and extent of that by-law. * It appears

* As the whole of these proceedings in 1761, and, in particular, the terms of the advertisement, in a special manner, support the doubts of the Committee, (the assertion of the existence of which doubts Dr Gregory calls a notorious falsehood), respecting the purport and extent of the act 1754, Dr Gregory has, with great want of candour and fidelity, entirely suppressed all mention of them. The omission could not be accidental, nor from oversight, as he actually quotes some facts of the same date, taken from the same page of the minute-book in which they are in part recorded.

pears from the minutes, that the act 1754 had not proved so effectual in accomplishing the separation of the two professions of Pharmacy and Medicine as had been wished; and therefore, on the 4th of August 1761, the following motion was made by Dr William Cullen.

"That whereas the act, 11th April 1754, made by the College for separating the practice of Physic and Pharmacy, had not yet been rendered effectual, it might be proper for the College to think of the means of rendering it so.

"The College remit to the Council, and to Dr Cullen and Dr Monro senior, as a Committee, to consider said matter, and to report their opinion with all convenient speed."

Nov. 3d, 1761.—"The Committee, to whom it was remitted to consider how the act of the 11th of April 1754, for separating the practice of Physic and Pharmacy, may be rendered effectual, reported, That they had well considered that matter, and had prepared the draught of an advertisement, which they thought would be proper for the College to publish; and the same being read at this meeting, the College unanimously approved thereof, and appoint the same to be published in each of the Edinburgh newspapers for two several times, and to be signed by the clerk, and of which advertisement the tenor follows.

"The Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, charged with the care of the practice of physic within the city of Edinburgh and liberties thereof, judging, from many weighty reasons, that it would be greatly for the benefit of the inhabitants within the said bounds, that the profession of the Physician, and *the trade of the Apothecary*, should be kept distinct and separate, *did, some years ago, resolve and enact*, that no person should thereafter obtain the license of the College to practise Physic, unless he should renounce the business of the Apothecary, and at the same time give to them proper evidence of his being duly qualified to act in the capacity of Physician. This, notwithstanding, the College are informed, that several persons, assuming the title of Physicians, act in that capacity, without having obtained a license for so doing from the College, and at the same time *abstract their attention from the important trust of the health and lives of the lieges reposed in them, by exercising also the trade of the Apothecary*. To prevent this and the like abuses for the future, the said Royal College do hereby certify all whom it may concern, that they are resolved to prosecute, as their patent authorises and directs them to do, all such, who, without their license, shall, from and after the term of Candlemas next to come, assume the title of Doctor of Physic, and prescribe for the internal diseases of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, or of its liberties; and that they have unanimously determined not to consult with, or otherwise consider, such unlicensed practitioners as Physicians. And, that it may be known who are at present Fellows of their College, or licensed by them to practise Physic, a list of both is hereunto annexed."

It

It is impoſſible to read this document, without being ſatisfied that the purport and extent of the act 1754, announced in this moſt public manner in 1761, was to ſeparate and keep diſtinct the profeſſion of the Phyſician, and the *trade* of the Apothecary; and that the *trade* of the Apothecary here mentioned, means the trade of the public ſhop, which abſtracts the attention of Phyſicians from the important truſt of the health and lives of the liege repoſed in them. In this moſt deliberate and public ſtatement of the purpoſe of the act, there is not the ſmalleſt hint or alluſion to the practice of furniſhing medicines to patients, as forming a part of the proviſions of that act.

From the ſtatement which has been given, it muſt appear, that the Committee were of opinion,

1. That the *innovation* and *abuſe* in the practice of Phyſic, complained of in the *Report* of 1753, was unqueſtionably the junction of the profeſſion of the Phyſician with that of the common Apothecary.

2. That the innovation and abuſe ſtated in the preamble of the by-law 1754, viz. the conjoining the profeſſion of Medicine and Pharmacy in one and the ſame perſon, which may hinder the advancement of the knowledge of Medicine, and may prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of this city and liberties, cannot, in reaſon, apply to the practice of Members of the College furniſhing medicines to their own patients; and that there is no expreſſion in the enacting clauſes of the ſaid by-law which ſpecially applies to this practice.

3. That the College, by a formal and public act and advertiſement, declared, in the moſt explicit and unequivocal terms, in the year 1761, that the object of the by-law 1754, was the ſeparation of the profeſſion of the Phyſician from the *trade* of the Apothecary, without the moſt diſtant alluſion to the practice of Phyſicians furniſhing medicines to their own patients.

4. That the power veſted in the College by their charter, to watch over the practice of phyſic in Edinburgh and its liberties, did not authoriſe them to prevent their members, graduates of Scotiſh Univerſities, from practiſing phyſic in any manner that did not hinder the advancement of medical knowledge, nor endanger the welfare of the citizens; and conſequently, that they had not the power to prevent their members from furniſhing medicines to their own patients. Such being the ſentiments of the Committee, *doubts* moſt naturally and moſt certainly aroſe in their minds reſpecting the extent and purport of the by-law 1754 and reſpecting the true and juſt interpretation of it. Though Dr Gregory moſt confidently declared the aſſertion of the Committee, "that doubts had ariſen," to be notoriouſly falſe, it may be preſumed with ſafety, that every reader will be ſatisfied, that this aſperſion of the Committee was wantonly malicious; and moſt readers will probably join the Committee in admitting, that the grounds of doubt were neither trifling nor unreaſonable.

The Committee were ſo ſtrongly impreſſed with theſe doubts, that they conceived themſelves not only warranted, but in duty bound, to ſubmit them to the conſideration of the College; and they ſuggeſted the plan of prefixing the declaratory clauſe, in place of repealing the act 1754, and making a new enactment free from ambiguity; for this reaſon, that they wiſhed to preſerve, with all the authority of a preſcriptive duration of fifty years, the indiſputed object of the act 1754, that of preventing the union of the profeſſion of Phyſician with the trade of Apothecary.

APPENDIX, No. III.

REASONS *of* DISSENT *by Dr* ANDREW DUNCAN, *Junior, why the Act of* 1754 *ſhould not have been confirmed and continued; which Reaſons of Diſſent form part of the Minute of the Quarterly Meeting of the Royal College of Phyſicians, held* 5*th November*, 1805.

1*ſt*, Becauſe the reaſons ſtated in the preamble for paſſing that act, appear to me to be unfounded. Daily experience proves, that combining the practice of Medicine and Pharmacy in one and the ſame perſon, does not hinder the advancement of the knowledge of Medicine, or prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of this City.

2*d*, Becauſe one principal reaſon which influenced the College in paſſing that act, and, in my opinion, the only reaſon, which, although erroneous, is at all plauſible, is not avowed in the preamble, viz. an opinion, that the practice of Pharmacy was derogatory to the dignity of a phyſician. *

3*d*, Becauſe the terms in which the reſtriction is expreſſed, appear to me to be ambiguous, and to admit of different interpretations.

4*th*, Becauſe the particular manner in which the College ſecures obedience to the reſtrictions impoſed on its Members by that act, by obliging candidates for a licenſe to ſpecify, in their petition, their conſent to ſubmit to them, appears to me to be unworthy of the dignity of the College, and

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* See report of a Committee for considering this subject, presented to the College in November 1753, and also the act of 1750 prohibiting Fellows from practising Surgery or Pharmacy, and the act 1765, relative only to Surgery.

and to imply a conſciouſneſs, that, in enacting them, the College exceeded its powers, and could not otherwiſe enforce them. *

5th, Becauſe I am of opinion, that it is improper for the College to put it out of their power to admit as Licentiates, or to raiſe to the dignity of Fellow, thoſe Phyſicians, who may, in other reſpects, be highly deſerving of their eſteem, and whoſe names may even do honour to their liſt, when no other objection lies againſt them, but that they practiſe particular branches of the healing art. †

6th, Becauſe the act ſeems to impoſe an unneceſſary, and what may, perhaps, in ſome inſtances, be even a cruel reſtriction on ſuch of our Members as may chooſe to profit by the practice of other branches of Medicine. †

7th, Becauſe I think the following opinion of Dr John Gregory incontrovertible. " In regard to Pharmacy, it were much to be wiſhed, that thoſe who make it their buſineſs ſhould have no connexion with the practice of Phyſic, or that Phyſicians ſhould diſpenſe their own medicines, and either not charge the expense of them to their patients at all, or charge it at the prime coſt. It is only in one or other of theſe ways that we can ever hope to ſee that ſimplicity of preſcription take place in the practice of Medicine, which all who underſtand its real intereſts ſo ardently wiſh for; and it is only from ſuch an arrangement, that we can expect to ſee Phyſicians placed in that honourable independence, which ſubjects them to no attentions but ſuch as tend to the advancement of their art." ‡ And as, in the preſent ſtate of the practice of Medicine in this City, the powers of the College are inadequate to the purpoſe of carrying the former of theſe alternatives into effect, I conſider it improper for the College to prevent its Members from adopting the latter.

8th, Becauſe " the purpoſe and intendment of erecting bodies corporate within particular diſtricts, with excluſive privileges, is not ſo much to limit or confine the members of ſuch body corporate in the exerciſe of their callings, whereby they may not be at liberty to apply themſelves to other callings compatible with that which is the principal object of their charter of erection, as to ſecure to them the ſole and excluſive exerciſe of

 that

* See Remit to a Committee appointed in 1765, to consider whether it would not be both *lawful* and proper to refuse to license even Scottish graduates, who should practise Surgery.

†† See opinion of a Committee, consisting of Drs Hay, Monro, Duncan, N. Spens, Langlands, Rutherford, and James Gregory, presented to the College in February 1788, on the expediency of repealing the resolution of the College of 1772, excluding both Fellows and Licentiates from practising Surgery, Midwifery, or any other branch of Surgery.

‡ See Lectures on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician, by John Gregory, M. D. F. R. S. second edition; revised and corrected by James Gregory, M. D. p. 43.

that particular calling which is the object of the grant, from being encroached on by unfreemen or others, who are not admitted members of ſuch ſociety." §

9*th*, Becauſe the abrogation of that act would not authoriſe any encroachment on the rights of other corporate bodies, which would remain as entire, as if no ſuch act had ever been thought of.

And finally and chiefly, Becauſe I am of opinion, that the act 1754, ſo far as regards Licentiates, exceeds the powers veſted in the College by their charter; ‡ and is an encroachment on the privileges of the Scottiſh Univerſities, which are expreſsly ſecured to them in that charter. "*Et dictum Medicorum Collegium, more praedicto erigendum, per praesentes obligatur quemvis hominem seu homines in dictis Universitatibus laurea doctorandis, absque quovis praevio seu antecedente examine, sed solummodo ad ipsorum diplomatis, seu ad gradus admissionis Praesidi dicti Medicorum Collegii productionem licentiare.*"

APPENDIX, No. IV.

QUERIES *proposed by* DR GREGORY *to the Royal College of Physicians, at their Meeting 5th November*, 1806, *with respect to an Admonition about Secrecy given at their Meeing in August* 1806.

1st, Does it extend and apply to *all things*, without exception, *done* by this Royal College, or *said* or *done* by any member of it individually, in any meeting of this College, or of its Council?

2d, If it extend to all things, by what authority is ſuch an Admonition given, or ſuch an obligation impoſed?

3d, Is there any law of this Royal College that has ſuch a meaning and extent?

[Read

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§ See Answer of Mr Lockhart to a Memorial of the College, dated 31st October, 1768.

‡ See Reasons of Dissent, signed by Drs Cullen, John Gregory, Black, Monro, Young, Ramsay and Hay, against the act passed in February 1769, with regard to Surgery, in the same words, *mutatis mutandis*, as the act 1754, relative to Pharmacy.

[Read the Promiſſory Engagement.—*Regulations*, ſect. vi. art. 15. par. 5. p. 21.]

4th, Does this obligation of ſecrecy extend and apply to the ordinary buſineſs of the College, ſuch as granting licenſes, admitting fellows, electing office-bearers, reviſing and reprinting our Diſpenſatory, &c. all which things are uſually announced in the common newſpapers?

5th, Does it extend to things *done* by this *College* out of the common courſe of buſineſs, but withal *honourable* to the *College*, and to the *individual members* who *proposed* them; ſuch as, the election of honorary members; for example, Dr Jenner; and the very liberal encouragement, by money and otherwiſe, given by this College to various plans of public benefit: which things alſo uſed to be announced in the newſpapers?

6th, Does the obligation of ſecrecy extend and apply only to things *positively dishonourable*, done by this College, or *acted* or *ſpoken* by any of us individually in the meetings of this College, or Council and Court thereof?

7th, Does it extend and apply only to things *dishonourable*, or, as I ſhould rather call them, *indecorous*, ſaid or done by any of us *inadvertently*, from miſtake, or from *sudden* and *great provocation*, or from natural *warmth* or *peevishness of temper*, or from *ignorance* of the ſubject matter of diſcourſe, or from weakneſs of underſtanding, or from any other *infirmity* of human nature?

8th, Does it alſo extend and apply to things *dishonourable*, *deliberately* done by this College, or deliberately acted and ſpoken by any of us individually, in the meetings of this College?

9th, Does it extend and apply to things *dishonourable*, as being *morally wrong*, or only to things *disgraceful* to us, *collectively* or *individually*, as being very fooliſh, but yet *deliberately* done by this College, or acted or ſpoken by any of us individually?

10th, Can the *divulging* of things neither foolish nor morally wrong, ſaid or done *deliberately* in, or by, this College, tend to the prejudice or defamation of the ſame, or of any member thereof?

11th, Is it *possible* to *divulge* any thing acted or ſpoken in this College, that may tend to the prejudice or defamation of the ſame, or of any member thereof, unleſs *such* things, truly *dishonourable*, ſhall *previously* have *been acted* or *ſpoken* in this College?

12th, Do our office-bearers *know* of any *intention*, on the part of any of our members, to *speak*, or *propose*, or *do*, in this College, any thing *dishonourable*, either as being *very foolish*, or as being morally wrong, the *divulging* of which would tend to the prejudice or defamation of the ſame, or of any member thereof?

13th, If they *do* know of any ſuch *dishonourable* intention, whether only *foolish* or *morally wrong*, on the part of any of us, what is it? Let us all know what that *dishonourable* thing is, that we may be on our guard againſt it, and be prepared to oppoſe it; and if we cannot prevent it from being

poken, or *proposed*, and *urged*, in our College, at leaſt be enabled to prevent that *diſhonourable* purpoſe from being carried into effect.

14th, Who are the *individuals* who have formed, and perſevere in the deſign of *acting* and *ſpeaking*, in this College, things, the divulging of which would tend to the *prejudice* and *defamation* of the ſame, or of any member thereof?

We ought all to know them, as well as their *bad* purpoſe, that we may be on our guard againſt *them*.

15th, Have our office-bearers, as in duty bound, done all in their power to diſſuade from their diſhonourable purpoſe thoſe unworthy members of our College?—Or,

16th, Have our office-bearers contented themſelves with thus endeavouring to beſpeak the ſecrecy, and enforce the connivance, of the other members of this College, with reſpect to things notoriously diſhonourable?

APPENDIX, No. V.

Referred to, Narrative, p. 67. & 68.

LETTER *to* DR BUCHAN.

MY DEAR SIR, *EDINBURGH, 13. February*, 1808.

The wars in which you found our College unhappily engaged, I am ſorry to ſay, ſtill continue. I ſhall not, however, at preſent, attempt to give you an account of our proceedings ſince you left us; which is leſs neceſſary, as the Members of the College received, at the quarterly meeting this month, above two hundred quarto pages in print, as part of a new intended publication by Dr Gregory, and as Dr Hope is preparing to publiſh, in behalf of himſelf and the Committee, which will explain matters much better than I can in a letter. My reaſon for troubling you now is, becauſe Dr Gregory, in this new publication, aſſerts that, with the exception of Dr Stuart having mentioned to him, that in 1796 there was a majority for my motion, "*no attempt* has been made to point out to me any error, either in thoſe things which, in my Review and Cenſorian Letter, I had ſtated as matters of fact, or in thoſe ſentiments which

which I had expreſſed with reſpect to the principles of moral conduct, or in my mode of reaſoning, and in the inferences which I had drawn from thoſe things, which I had conſidered and ſtated as matters of fact."

As mention, therefore, muſt be made in Dr Hope's publication, of what you ſaid at the extraordinary meeting of the College on the 19th of May, and of ſome of the errors which you pointed out to Dr Gregory, at his interview with you at your lodgings on the 23d May 1807, I ſhall tranſcribe from notes which I wrote to aſſiſt my recollection immediately after that meeting, and after I received from you an account of that interview with Dr Gregory, ſuch parts as relate to the preſent ſubject, requeſting that you will have the goodneſs to let me know, as ſoon as poſſible, whether you think them accurately ſtated.

"19th May.—Dr Buchan then roſe and ſaid, that as he was not to remain here above a few weeks longer, he thought it his duty to ſtate ſome circumſtances to the College, as he conceived that the unpleaſant affairs which had lately occupied them, had entirely originated in miſconceptions, which, he thought, he could eaſily point out and explain. That he had received the Review and Cenſorian Letter at Gibraltar."

"Upon which he was interrupted by Dr Home; and the Preſident obſerved, that as we had met this day for a particular purpoſe, he was afraid the College could not now hear Dr Buchan on that ſubject, but requeſted him to put his intended obſervations in writing. Dr Buchan replied, that he had not time to put his thoughts in writing; but that he would take an opportunity of communicating, privately, what he wiſhed to have ſaid, to Dr Gregory and to ſome of the other Members. Dr Gregory ſaid, that he would be moſt happy to hear Dr Buchan: and the Preſident added, that if Dr Buchan could contribute towards putting an end to the late moſt unpleaſant differences, it would afford him the higheſt ſatisfaction."

The following are the notes which I took of your converſation with Dr Gregory on the 23d May 1807, as above ſtated. "Dr Buchan informed Dr Gregory, that the Committee was *not packed;*—that the Members of the Committee did actually *differ in opinion about the meaning and interpretation of act* 1754;—that he, Dr Buchan, was for repealing the act entirely;—that as it had only been paſſed fifty years ago, and as Counſel had been previouſly conſulted, he did not think there was any *immorality* in changing or repealing it;—that he conſidered profeſſional knowledge, general learning, and good character, as the principal requiſites for a Phyſician; and that, with theſe qualifications, there was no need for reſtrictions;—that the Committee had only propoſed alterations, truſting to advice and aſſiſtance from the College;—that they had not pledged themſelves to vote in any particular way in the College; but, on the contrary, that it was underſtood among themſelves, that they were to give their votes in the College according to their conviction, after hearing their brethren;—that, in December 1804, the Committee had decidedly agreed to give up the propoſed changes on the act 1754; and that, on this account, inſtead

ſtead of being cenſured, as they had been by Dr Gregory, he had expected they would have received the thanks of the College."

"Dr Gregory ſaid, that he had not been properly informed of the reſolution of the Committee to give up the meaſure in queſtion."

I am afraid that the above is but an imperfect account of your converſation with Dr Gregory; but I am pretty confident that it contains the ſubſtance and moſt material parts of what you mentioned to me; and, under that impreſſion, in caſe I have not the pleaſure of hearing from you within a reaſonable time, I ſhall give it to Dr Hope as authentic. With beſt wiſhes, &c. I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours moſt ſincerely,

(Signed) TH. SPENS.

Dr JAMES BUCHAN, *Physician, &c.*
Gibraltar.

Dr BUCHAN'*s* ANSWER *to the foregoing Letter:*

MY DEAR SIR, *GIBRALTAR, 8. May, 1808.*

The notes ſtated in your letter contain, to the beſt of my recollection, (for I have no memorandums), the outlines of the converſation I had with Dr Gregory. As an old pupil of a man, whoſe character I very much reſpected, I thought it my duty to ſupply him with any information which might appear to me to have a tendency to promote reconciliation. Although diſappointed in its not having produced the deſired effect, I have ſtill the ſatisfaction of reflecting, that I have done what I conſidered to be right.

Some circumſtances may have occurred, ſince I left Scotland, which may render it neceſſary to write a book, otherwiſe I am as decidedly againſt it now as I was then; conceiving that it is unneceſſary, and that it will only add fuel to the flame. Indeed, I cannot ſuppoſe that any blow can be aimed at the Committee, which may not be completely warded off by the ſhield furniſhed us by our brethren of the College, 10th May 1805.* Their

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* Dr Buchan here alludes to the Resolution of 5th February, 1805, but, by mistake, mentions 10th May, 1805. the date when that Resolution was printed, after receiving the sanction of the College on the 7th May, 1805.

Their very ample approbation of the conduct of the Preſident and Members of the Committee, appears to me to be a ſufficient anſwer to any volume, or number of volumes, that can be written on the ſubject.

You, however, who are on the ſpot, may have reaſons for writing, with which I am unacquainted; and the ſtrict principles of honour and integrity, together with the moderation and forbearance which have ſo remarkably diſtinguiſhed your proceedings, leave me no room to doubt reſpecting the propriety of your deciſion.

Have the goodneſs to remember me, &c. And believe me to be, with great regard,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) JAMES BUCHAN.

Dr THOMAS SPENS, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. Edinburgh.

APPENDIX, No. VI.

Referred to, Narrative, p. 29.

SIR, *Edinburgh, January 9th,* 1809.

As the Council of the College of Phyſicians are engaged in drawing up a narrative of Dr Gregory's conduct towards the College, and as it was mentioned, in the meetings of the College, that you are the gentleman alluded to by Dr Gregory in page 8th of his Cenſorian Letter, we requeſt you will inform us, whether the ſtatement of Dr Gregory, ſo far as it relates to you, be correct. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

JAMES HOPE Esq. (Signed) CHA. STUART, *P.*

SIR, *Edinburgh, 12th January,* 1809.

IN compliance with your requeſt, contained in your letter of the 9th current, that I ſhould acquaint the Council of the College, whether the account of the interview (Cenſorian Letter, p. 8.), in which Dr Gregory introduces

introduces me as an evidence againſt my brother Dr Hope, be correct; I beg leave ſolemnly to aſſure you, that the whole of his ſtatement and colouring, ſo far as relates to me, is untrue.

I remember coming into my brother Dr Hope's library, when Dr Gregory and he were finiſhing a converſation about the buſineſs of the College of Phyſicians, which did not intereſt me, and of which I heard very little, and could repeat nothing. But I do ſolemnly declare, that the ſtory of my having interpoſed between Dr Gregory and Dr Hope, as ſtated by Dr Gregory, is altogether a *fabrication*—that I ſaid not a word, on the ſubject of their converſation, which bore any relation to my brother's conduct or ſentiments—far leſs did I, directly or indirectly, expreſs any condemnation of them, or uſe expreſſions which could juſtify ſuch an inference.

My brother, I knew, was preparing to ſet off for the country; and Dr Gregory and I converſed, for a conſiderable time, in our uſual friendly and familiar manner, upon various ſubjects, and, among others, joked about the ſkill of lawyers, and the different views which different lawyers could give of the ſame thing.

Whether, in the courſe of this converſation between Dr Gregory and me, on the outſide of the ſtreet-door of the houſe, and in reply to ſome general obſervation on his part, I may have made the equally general and juſt remark, 'that every thing ſhould be done openly and fairly,' my recollection does not permit to ſay, and did not enable me to ſay, at the period of the publication of Dr Gregory's book. But ſuch expreſſions, if uſed, were never employed by me in relation to my brother's ſentiments, or any line of conduct or ſentiment of his, or imputed by Dr Gregory to him.

It is proper that I ſhould add, that, in a letter which Dr Gregory wrote me, 28th January 1805, accompanying a copy of the Cenſorian Letter after he had begun to diſtribute it, he gave the ſame ſtatement as in the Cenſorian Letter, of the interview with Dr Hope, and of my expreſſions; leaving out, however, his obſervations on the peculiarity of the emphaſis uſed, and the inferences which he drew from the expreſſions and emphaſis.

I regret extremely that Dr Gregory afforded me no opportunity of ſeeing his Statement previous to its publication, as it might have ſaved much painful feeling: But as it was not communicated to me till after it was in circulation, all intercourſe with Dr Gregory on the ſubject was precluded.

I remain,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient Servant,

(Signed) JA^{S}. HOPE.

To DR STUART, *President,*
Royal College of Physicians.

Murray & Cochrane
Printers, Edinburgh